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January 26-February 1, 2000
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CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Jersey City slaps Y2K pink slip on employees

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson
Staff Writer

While the rest of the world was gearing up to bring in the year 2000, some of Jersey City employees were being pink slipped, putting a considerable damper for them on the 21st Century.

In what could almost be termed a stealth act, 19 employees in the city's housing and code violation department were terminated in an effort to "balance the budget."

"It was as if all the years of service, hard work and commitment meant absolutely nothing," stated Windell Jones. "I took the buy out, but it really didn't mean that much, when you think about it. My salary was only \$38,000, after 21 years of service, and all they offered is half the salary plus three months of medical. It's a joke, really. All they wanted to do is to make the department fly white, and they finally got an administration

'It was as if all the years of service, hard work and commitment meant absolutely nothing.'

—Windell Jones, the only African American and a senior planner in Jersey City's Planning Department

that would go along with it. Now there's no one there to be a buffer for the black community when they make their moves, no one to ensure people get fair consideration."

Mofale (Mo-fal-ah) Meinga also took a buy out, after having served in their vacant and abandoned buildings division. An employee responding to Meinga's exit said, "I had less seniority than Mr. Meinga, but I raised so much fuss they didn't dare lay me off. I threatened to name names in reference to improprieties. Mr. Meinga was an accountant, with other skills. They should have made him head of the department. Instead they laid him off."

A total of 19 employees from the department were summarily dismissed. Another employee, who asked not to be identified stated, "we are well aware of the machinations in the department to maintain a primarily white front. However, the black community of Jersey City is as much to blame because they don't take a stand. I may be new, and I've been here for nearly 20 years."

It's estimated that at least two-thirds of the 19 dismissed former Housing and Community Planning arm of the city were African American or Latino.

Shandler, who has come under a lot of fire for his mismanagement of the city's funds, began threatening to lay off employees during the summer after requesting additional funds from Gov. Christie Whitman.

A total of 109 employees are slated to be laid off. The areas affected by the layoffs are the Job Registry Department with 20 proposed layoffs. With at least one-quarter taking a six month buy out. This new law will nearly decimate the effectiveness of the Planning Department, which is a part of the city's Department of Economic Opportunity.

A call to the Mayor's office to respond to these allegations was not returned.



Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Rev. Pastor David Jefferson and his wife Lillian Jefferson, and Jesse Jackson after the unveiling of a city revival plan involving Newark's churches and communities.

By Joy Russell Perez

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — In what they called the largest collaboration of a city revival plan involving Newark's churches and communities, the project will be funded by private investors, the city, and local banks, James said.

The Rev. David Jefferson, Sr., Metropolitan Baptist's pastor, said renewing the neighborhood was an important part of the church's responsibilities.

In a speech introducing Jackson, Jefferson spoke about the need for economic literacy, especially among the city's young people.

"Someone once said it's a fallacy to believe that it is holy to be broke. Well, I believe that it is a crime to be holy and broke," said Jefferson. "We need to teach our young people that it's not the spirit over here and economics

here, but that God is right here in the center."

Hundreds showed to listen to Jackson's keynote speech, leaving a waiting room only. About 75 others were lucky enough to find a seat in the second-floor lounge where a television was set up for viewing the speakers one floor below.

After his opening prayer, Jackson's speech focused on the need for Newark residents to invest and save for their future.

Jackson also reminded the congregation of what the late Martin Luther King Jr. sacrificed to ensure a chance at a more positive future.

"We thank you, Martin Luther King Jr. for his walking, but talking, and his sacrifice embodies the hope of centuries of people from the past, and let us live out the hope of those

dreams," said Jackson.

During his speech, Jackson asked people to raise their hands if they were in credit card debt and had played the lottery. Nearly the entire congregation raised their hands.

"No matter how you celebrate Dr. King's birthday, a culmination of credit card debt and looking for Lotto as a ball out is a guarantee to fail as a plan," he said.

The service here in Newark was one of several throughout New Jersey which honored King, who was known for his message of nonviolent action and civil disobedience.

Gov. Christie Whitman spoke at Rutgers University in Piscataway, and Congressman Donald Payne addressed the congregation at the Paradise Baptist Church in Newark.

Photo by Herb Olsen

Students recall Seton Hall fire

By Joy Russell Perez

LIVINGSTON, N.J. (AP) — Seven of 13 freshmen students injured in a fatal fire at a Seton Hall University dormitory and hospitalized at Saint Barnabas Medical Center were released Thursday.

The seven students, who all lived on the third floor of Boland Hall, suffered from smoke inhalation. An eighth student, also suffering from smoke inhalation, was released Wednesday.

Five others who remained hospitalized were Nick Donato, of Sparta, and Ben Chibnik, both 19; and Thomas Pugliese, Alvaro Llanos, and Ken Simons, all 18. Three were listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit suffering from burns and smoke inhalation, one in the intensive care unit in serious but stable condition, and one in stable condition, according to a hospital spokeswoman. Their hometowns were not released.

The most seriously injured student suffered burns to more than half his body, said Dr. Sylvia Petrone, associate director of Saint Barnabas Medical Center's burn unit.

"For an 18-year-old with a 60 percent burn injury, there's a good chance of survival, but it is a life-threatening injury," Petrone said.

At University Hospital in Newark, Dana Christmas, a 21-year-old resident adviser with burns on 58 percent of her body, had her first surgery Thursday to graft skin onto her back and hands. She will need between three and five surgeries and is still in at serious risk of infection in her lungs and skin, said her surgeon, Edwin Deitch.

Students released from the hospital shared tales of panic and despair as they managed to find their way out of the third-floor dorm which quickly filled with smoke

and flames.

"I opened the door and there were flames," said Alyssa Morris, 18, of West Long Branch. "My roommate and I started saying 'Our Father' because I thought we were gonna die."

Merla said calling 911 was difficult because students must enter a code to dial out. The two eventually escaped through a roommate's door.

Marissa Lorenz, 18, of Scotch Plains, said

"I opened the door and there were flames. (My roommate and I) started saying Our Father because I thought we were gonna die."

she was in her room with Austin Fox, 18, of Paramus, along with two roommates, who had slept through the alarm.

"When I first heard the alarm, I thought, 'I'm not leaving.' I mean, there are so many alarms," said Lorenz.

In the first semester alone, there were 18 alarms in Boland Hall, according to a campus spokeswoman.

Merla noted students last semester eventually ignored false alarms.

"During our final exam, between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., there were three alarms," Merla. "I called my Mom and said 'do you hear this? I went into my closet to sleep because I didn't want to leave.'"

Lorenz and Fox said they then heard screams just outside their door.

"I took my sweater off and put it in my mouth and went to the door, and the handle was already hot," said Fox.

"We pulled this kid into our room and shut the door," said Lorenz. "We didn't know who he was, I mean, this boy was unrecognizable."

Lorenz said she tried to calm the student, and asked him to nod if he could hear her, but he would only cling to her leg.

"The hair on his legs were singed. He was charred. His hands were black and his whole face was charred black," said Fox. "He told us his name, but we don't remember. There was so much commotion."

The students said they were not told what happened to the student after they pulled him into their room and firefighters rescued him.

Romil Sumlilang, 18, of Teaneck, said he crawled into the smoke-filled hallway with his name, but we don't remember. There was so much commotion."

"I lost my roommate in the dark, and then I heard a voice in the stairwell saying, 'If you can hear me, come to my voice!'"

Sumlilang escaped, but said he heard a female student yelling for help, so he went back inside the burning dorm and dragged her to safety.

Killed in the fire were 18-year-old freshman Frank S. Calababita of West Long Branch, John N. Giunta of Vineland and Aaron C. Karol of Green Brook. Two were found in the lounge and the third was found in a near by bedroom, Campolo said.

The funeral will be held on Monday at St. John's Church in Dunellen for Karol. The other two victims Calababita and Giunta funerals will also be held on Monday.

Ms. Karol said the family plans to establish a scholarship fund at Watchung Hills High School, where Aaron graduated with honors.

Texas NAACP asks Bush to support confederate flag campaign

By Jim Vertano

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas NAACP on Friday asked Gov. George W. Bush to support its efforts to have the Confederate battle flag removed from a plaque on the state Supreme Court building.

Bush, the Republican presidential front-runner, has side-stepped a battle over use of the flag in South Carolina, saying a decision whether to fly it over that state's Capitol must come from voters there.

South Carolina has flown the flag over its Statehouse since 1962. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have begun a tourism boycott of the state until the flag comes down.

Texas flies the state flag and the American flag at its Capitol. In a letter, the NAACP asked Bush to state publicly that the flag is offensive to minority groups, who say the flag represents slavery in the old South.

'We are not asking you to personally condemn the flag, but to say simply that it honestly offends a large segment of the population and therefore should not be used as an official public symbol, particularly in a location like our highest court where people go to try and obtain justice.'

"We are not asking you to personally condemn the flag, but to say simply that it honestly offends a large segment of the population and therefore, should not be used as an official public symbol, particularly in a location like our highest court where people go to try and obtain justice."

Wrote Gary Bledsoe, president of the NAACP Texas chapter. Bledsoe wrote that the flag as become a symbol of "hate and division."

"Texas proudly flies the Texas and American flags over our state buildings throughout our capital complex," said Bush campaign spokesman Scott McClellan.

"There are many historical representations of the six different governments that governed Texas in the past."

"Texas is a diverse state and we are proud of our diversity and we certainly hope people are not trying to politicize this in the context of the presidential campaign. He recognizes there are strong emotions on both sides," McClellan said.

The building that houses the state Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals, Texas' two highest courts, has two bronze plaques inside that refer to the Confederacy. One has the seal of the Confederacy and the other includes an image of the stars and bars battle flag and quotes Confederate Gen. Robert B. Lee.

"I'll rely upon Texas' regiments in all right places and fear I have to call upon them too often. They have fought grandly, nobly," the plaque reads.

Court spokesman, Osler McCarthy said the building was built with money donated from a Confederate widows fund and was commissioned in 1955. The building is operated by the state-general services department, not the court, he said.

"This is not the first time this has been raised," McCarthy said. "The court is sympathetic but it ain't our building."

The battle flag also is used by several school districts around the state, Bledsoe said. Nearby Hays County has been sharply divided in recent months over use of the flag at high school football games.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at Orange City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process Passports, Notary Public Oaths, ABC IDs, Veterans Licenses, and Filing of Physicians Licenses. You must provide your own photos. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on Wills and Estate Planning at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 249-5200.

TRENTON - NJAC Board of Directors Reorganization meeting will be held 9 a.m. at the NJ State House, Room 319, Third Fl.

NEWARK - NJN's Images/Imagines to hold auditions for 14th Annual Hispanic Youth Showcase Talent Search 2000 through Jan. 28th at its Newark studio. Children between ages 8 and 17 are encouraged to audition. For more information, call (609) 777-5001.

TRENTON - NJ Women's Basketball LIVE! on NJN at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEWARK - 1,000 Friends Education Policy Luncheon returns to the Newark Club with special guest speaker Justice Stan Handler. 12 p.m. (973) 621-6631.

NEWARK - A Board of Adjustment Meeting will be held 7:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chamber. For more information, call (973) 733-6333.

NEWARK - A visual tour will be held at the New Jersey Historical Society from 12:15 through 1 p.m. Bring your lunch, bring a friend. Enjoy talks, presentations, demonstrations and gallery programs. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

FREEHOLD - Freeholders' workshop meeting at 2:00 p.m. - Freeholders' meeting room, Hall of Records.

FREEHOLD - Freeholders' regular public meeting at 8:00 p.m. - Freeholders' meeting room, Hall of Records.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

NEWARK - A Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control meeting will be held 5:30 p.m., Room 301. For more information, call (973) 733-6445.

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 1

NEWARK - More than 115 teachers from throughout the state will convene at the NJPAC (New Jersey Performing Arts Center) for a full day of NJPAC's signature Professional Development Workshops. For more information, call (973) 353-8032.

NEW YORK - "Perfect Documents" will display 50 of the photographs from Walker Evans's portfolio along with several related sculptures. This exhibition is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc. For more information, call (212) 535-7710.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

NEWARK - Attend the 6th Public Hearing of Citizens regarding American Prisons from 8:00 to 9:00

p.m. at Essex County College. Free Admission. For more information, call (973) 297-1275.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

NEWARK - Bro. Eric Ture Muhammad, Founder of The Black African Holocaust Council presents "The African Slave History of New Jersey, Pt. 1" at 7:00 p.m. The WISOMMM Mansion. Free Admission. For more information, call (973) 297-1275 or (718) 596-7569.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY

NEW BRUNSWICK - A free public seminar on estate and federal income tax will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the NJ Law Center. For more information, call 1(800) FREE-LAW.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NEWARK - Bro. Eric Ture Muhammad, Founder of The Black African Holocaust Council presents "The African Slave History of New Jersey, Pt. 2" at 7:00 p.m. The WISOMMM Mansion. Free Admission. For more information, call (973) 297-1275 or (718) 596-7569.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK - Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar titled, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support and Grandparents Rights." The seminar will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the NJ Law Center (off Ryders Lane). For more information call 1(800) FREE-LAW.

SUNDAY - MARCH 5

ATLANTIC CITY - Kids Fair 2000, a tradeshow just for kids will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Atlantic City Convention Center. For more information, call 1(800) 262-7395.

NEW BRUNSWICK - NJ State Bar Foundation presents a free seminar for the public on "Discrimination in the Workplace" from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call 1(800) FREE-LAW.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

ORANGE - Workshops focusing on lesson plan development and structure using the arts will be presented from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Orange High School by theater artist Sean Layne and movement artist Eric Johnson. For more information, call Irene Toone at (973) 353-8020.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Trust for Historic Preservation Week will be celebrated May 14th through May 20th. For more information, call (202) 588-6141.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

ORANGE - Workshops focusing on lesson plan development and structure using the arts will be presented from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Orange High School by theater artist Sean Layne and movement artist Eric Johnson. For more information, call Irene Toone at (973) 353-8020.

Jeffries celebrates birthday at WISOMMM Mansion



Leonard Jeffries' wife Rosalind makes her entrance as she arrives at the birthday celebration for her husband at the WISOMMM mansion.



Professor Leonard Jeffries is all smiles during the celebration of his 63rd birthday—lookin' good!



Leonard Jeffries sits at the table with Marcus Garvey Jr. and Ruby Shivers at the WISOMMM mansion.



Leonard Jeffries poses with Fredrica Bey (left) and Ayo McMillan during his birthday bash and celebration at the WISOMMM mansion.

All photos by William Frazier

Black History Moments



Sen. Carol E. Moseley-Braun 1947-

Carol E. Moseley-Braun became the first black woman to serve in the Senate.

She was born in Chicago and educated at the University of Chicago before becoming an attorney.

She became active in Chicago's legal communities and the state legislature, and served as the Cook County (Illinois) recorder of deeds/registrant of titles.

In 1999, Moseley-Braun was appointed the Ambassador to New Zealand by President Bill Clinton after a controversial hearing in which was seen as some senators' retaliating against Moseley-Braun for her stance on various issues.

Information taken from "Black Firsts: 2,000 years of Extraordinary Achievement" by Jessie Carney Smith.

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Black quotes to live by...



"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Bill Cosby, American actor and comedian (b. 1937)

taken from the Virtual Black History Museum in Louisiana www.sahlini.k12.la.us/njla/virtual_black_history_museum.htm

NATIONAL BRIEFS

DAVID DUKE STARTS WHITES CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling it a move for whites to band together and protect themselves from America's growing minority population, former Ku Klux Klanman David Duke has started a civil rights group for whites. "I respect other cultures, but I really want America to remain with the values of our forefathers," Duke said at a recent news conference. "European Americans must band together as a group with the same way African Americans do, the same way other minorities do."

He announced formation of the National Organization for European American Rights. About 75 organizers of the new group, which will be based in Mandeville, La., plan to meet tonight in Philadelphia, and Duke said there already are member representatives in 30 states.

"European Americans face a situation where we're going to be outnumbered and outvoted in our own country," said Duke, who is chairman of the National Party in Louisiana's St. Tammany Parish.

The Census Bureau projects that non-Hispanic whites will drop from 72 percent of the total population in 1990 to 53 percent by the year 2050 as immigration increases and the population of minorities grows more rapidly than whites.

"I guarantee there are many European Americans who are refugees in our own cities," Duke said, fishing out at one point, "called biased treatment in favor of blacks, Hispanics, Jews and homosexuals." "We like our values. We like our culture. We want to preserve it."

JURY SELECTION BEGINS IN LOUIIANA CASE

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge began the tedious process of choosing a jury for the second trial in the Amadou Diallo police shooting case, selecting from a pool of 500.

A teacher who served in the Marines and a Bell Atlantic employee of Vietnamese descent survived the initial cut, saying nothing in their views or experience would prevent them from being able to reach a fair verdict. One of the two so-called "blue wall of silence" among police officers, the silver-haired ex-Marine said, "I think that such behavior occurs in all professions to some extent."

He said he believes "cops operate under duress, and not all handle that duress well."

Former officer Charles Schwab, 35, and officers Thomas Wiese, 37, and Thomas Bruder, 34, are accused of conspiring to obstruct justice by concealing Schwab's alleged role in the brutal point-blank attack on a young man who was shot four times, following his arrest on a minor charge in 1997.

Former officer Justin Volpe is serving a 30-year term after pleading guilty to violating Louima's civil rights. Schwab was convicted and faces a life sentence, but Volpe now claims Louima was not involved.

The ones, all of whom are white, face five years in prison on the conspiracy charge. Louima is black.

U.S. District Judge Eugene Newman was to select from a jury pool of more than 500 to 75, then pick a panel from that smaller group by Jan. 31. The task is complicated by widespread publicity and tensions generated by the racially explosive case.

By day's end, four prospective jurors, three men and one woman, were retained and three others were dismissed.

Nickerson questioned the candidates closely about their answers to a written questionnaire, especially what they knew of the case and whether they had ever been exposed to racism. Most said they had been.

The teacher said he had undergone therapy after suffering "harassment" by a group of Italian and Hispanic youths, but said that would not affect his own ability to reach an honest verdict.

Black media gives advertising industry a "C+" efforts to reach minorities

By Peter Alan Harper

NEW YORK (AP) — A coalition of Hispanic and black broadcasters gave the advertising industry a "C+" Wednesday for its efforts to increase advertising among minority media. The grade comes nearly two years after a notorious ad agency memo surfaced calling black consumers "suspects, not prospects."

The Rev. Al Sharpton, the fulcrum of an unprecedented coalition of Hispanic and black media owners and advertisers, gave the grade at a news conference following the second annual Invitational Summit on Multi-cultural Markets and Media.

Sharpton offered the middle ranking even as he announced disagreements between his Madison Avenue Initiative and Macy's, PepsiCo Inc. and Col-

gate-Palmolive to redirect their advertising budgets toward black and Hispanic firms.

Madison Avenue only got a "C+" because we are dealing with a multi, multi-billion-dollar industry," that should be targeting minority communities that spend money on products whose current advertising excludes them, Sharpton said.

"That exclusion was graphically displayed in May 1998 when an ad agency's memo materialized advising clients that 'advertisers want prospects, not suspects' and advocated using ad budgets to reach 'the more important' white segment of the population."

Outrage in 1998 led to the first summit conference in February 1999, which was backed financially by the industry then and again on Wednesday.

"That's probably a pretty fair rating," said O. Burch Drake, president and chief executive of the American Association of Advertising Agencies, the nation's largest trade group representing advertising agencies. The Four A's, as the group is known, is a co-convenor of the summit.

"It's been a difficult area for the industry but inherent in the Reverend's rating is that it was better than it was a year ago," Drake said. "We are making progress."

But that kind of statement, along with others made at the conference, didn't sit well with many in the audience. The Four A's provided speakers, one of whom said that diversifying ad dollars hasn't been on the industry's radar. Another said that media buyers and sellers weren't aware that Asians, Latinos and blacks make up a rough-

ly a trillion dollar market.

"We've heard this for 30 years," an outraged Sanford Moore, managing director of Minority Media Management Services Inc., said in comments from the floor directed to panelists.

Moore got a round of applause then and also when he asked the moderator, Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School, if he would consider a federal suit against the industry. Ogletree told Moore to see him afterward.

Asked later if suing is an option, Sharpton said "everything is a viable option until we obtain parity."

Sometime in the spring, the MAI will issue a Top 20 and Bottom 20 of advertising agencies and their efforts.

While no black figures were available, the MAI said Macy's



Rev. Al Sharpton

will increase its advertising in minority media by 24 percent; Colgate-Palmolive will spend an additional 22 percent, and PepsiCo will increase its minority radio presence by 20 percent, magazines by 86 percent, newspapers by 233 percent and television by 73 percent.

Va. Gov. Gilmore: Give Lee, Jackson Friday — keep King on Monday

By Matthew Barakat

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson would have their own state holiday three days before one honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. under a proposal made by Gov. Jim Gilmore.

Virginia currently marks Lee-Jackson-King Day on the third Monday in January. It is the only state in the nation with such a holiday.

Gilmore said last week in his State of the Commonwealth address that he wanted two separate holidays, one for King and one for Lee and Jackson.

This past Wednesday, he proposed keeping the King holiday where it is and making Lee-Jackson Day a state holiday on

the preceding Friday.

"The combination of one holiday recognizing these men has caused confusion among our citizens, and diminished the celebration of their contributions," Gilmore said. "It is long overdue for these men to be honored with separate holidays marking their distinct legacies."

The additional state holiday would cost taxpayers about \$900,000 a year, according to the Department of Planning and Budget.

Gilmore said a bipartisan group of legislators will sponsor his proposal, including Democrat William Robinson of Norfolk in the House of Delegates and Republican Emmett Hanger of Augusta County in the Senate.

Virginia Division Commander Robert Barbour said Gilmore's plan would further dis-

tance the holiday honoring Lee and Jackson from their actual birthdays. Lee's birthday is Jan. 19; Jackson's is Jan. 21.

"If they've got to go backwards, I'd just as soon see it stay the way it is," Barbour said.

Barbour said he didn't mind having all three honored on the same day, but that if anybody should be moved, it's King.

"After all, it's a Virginia holiday," Barbour said. "And who are the Virginians?"

Viola Baskerville, D-Richmond, said she was glad to see that Gilmore's proper keep the state holiday honoring King on the same day as the federal King holiday.

But she said she wants to see Gilmore more active on substantive issues that are important to black Virginians.

Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

Black Florida lawmakers reach compromise with Governor Jeb Bush

By David Rouse

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Two black lawmakers have reached a compromise with Gov. Jeb Bush on how to work out their disagreement over the end of affirmative action in the state, but they remain far apart on the issue.

A dramatic showdown ended recently with the signing of an agreement by Sen. Kendrick Meek and Rep. Tony Hill, both Democrats, and the Republican governor. Meek and Hill declared victory after emerging from a sit-in at Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan's office after 25 hours.

Meek, from Miami, and Hill, from Jacksonville, had demanded

that Bush rescind his executive order, signed late last year, to end affirmative action programs in Florida.

Instead, Bush has proposed a plan to end affirmative action in Brogan's office, staying overnight along with nine reporters.

At the root of their disagreement is the governor's position on affirmative action; the governor says racial preferences don't work and he wants to eliminate them.

Instead, Bush has proposed a plan he calls "One Florida," which he promises will create more opportunities for minorities in hiring and education in other ways, including guaranteeing university admission for the top 20 percent of

graduates in each public high school.

After negotiating with Meek and Hill, Bush agreed to put the plan before the public, holding hearings around the state. He also agreed to postpone until next month a vote by the Board of Regents on the education portion of the plan. That vote had been scheduled for Friday.

The education part also needs the approval of the cabinet, which also meets next month. That vote wasn't delayed.

Bush also acknowledged the legislators' chief complaint that there hadn't been much communication between the governor's office and leaders of the Legisla-

tive Black Caucus, whose constituents share a high stake in affirmative action. Bush agreed to talk more with the caucus members.

"This is going to require more dialogue, which I am prepared to do," Bush said.

The governor also hinted that he thought the plan would hold up through public hearings.

"Our plan is not perfect, but it's a good plan and it will pass the test," Bush said.

Still, Bush said the Black Caucus members he was open to suggestions to improve the plan.

After emerging from the sit-in, Meek and Hill remained in Tallahassee for budget meetings. Law-

makers ended a week of committee meetings. The regular law-making session begins in March.

Sen. Daryl Jones, D-Miami, the chairman of the Black Caucus and a key negotiator in the deal that brought an end to the sit-in, said a tough part of the negotiations was trying to figure out away both sides could save face.

Meek said the agreement — regardless of the specifics on the paper that Meek, Hill and Bush signed ending the sit-in — had a key, unwritten provision that did that.

"You don't see it on that paper, but across the paper is respect," Meek said. "A lot was accomplished today."

Judge bars disclosure of Diallo cops' backgrounds

By Tom Hays

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The jury in the trial of four officers accused of murdering Amadou Diallo will not learn that three of the officers had been involved in prior shootings, a judge has ruled.

The decision was one of several pretrial rulings by Justice Joseph C. Teresi issued after a hearing in Albany on Wednesday.

Teresi also ordered prosecutors to turn over more evidence to the defense and rejected a prosecution motion asking him to limit testimony by defense expert witnesses.

At the same time, Teresi, who took over the case after it was moved to Albany from the Bronx, decided that the new evi-

dence and background information would not be made public.

Plain clothes officers Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon, Richard Murphy and Kenneth Boss were indicted on second-degree murder charges in March after they fired 41 bullets at Diallo while searching a Bronx neighborhood for a violent criminal.

Diallo, struck 19 times, was dead at the scene. Attorneys for the officers have claimed their clients mistakenly believed the street vendor, a West African immigrant, was reaching for a gun.

An appeals court moved the trial update after accepting defense lawyers' claims that pretrial publicity had made it impossible to seat an impartial jury in the Bronx. The shooting

involving white officers and a black victim touched off weeks of protests alleging brutality against minorities.

A motion filed by eight news organizations had asked the judge to open all hearings and papers to the press. But Teresi argued that full disclosure could taint the jury.

"It would be horrific to have similar circumstances concerning publicity occur again," he wrote.

According to past reports, Boss shot and killed a man armed with a shotgun in Brooklyn in 1997, but a grand jury cleared him of wrong doing.

Three civilian complaints alleging he used excessive force were all found to be unsubstantiated.

Carroll had the most unsubstantiated complaints alleging

inappropriate use of force. In August 1998, a suspect in the Bronx shot at him and Carroll fired back, but missed.

McMellon wounded an armed man in Brooklyn in 1998. He has been accused five times of using excessive force, abuse of authority or racial insensitivity, but none of the complaints have been substantiated.

Murphy had no prior shooting incidents or civilian complaints.

Teresi argued that "past occurrences" involving the defendants were "irrelevant and would prejudice the rights of the subject defendants."

McMellon's attorney, Stephen Worth, said he was confident the defendants, who were not in court, would get a fair trial.

"Our officers shot Amadou Diallo — there's never been a question about that," he said. "The question is under what circumstances. That's what this trial is about."

Prosecutors declined comment.

The rulings clear the way for the defense to call two police training and tactics experts and a psychologist as expert witnesses to try to convince the jury the officers followed proper procedure. A prosecution motion had warned that the witnesses may be asked to offer opinions on ultimate matters which would invade the province of the jury.

Jury selection is set to begin Jan. 31; the trial is expected to last up to six weeks.

Laura Bush says Confederate flag not racist symbol

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The wife of presidential contender and Texas Gov. George W. Bush says she doesn't think the Confederate flag is a symbol of racism.

Laura Bush spoke at several South Carolina stops where she campaigned for her husband.

The candidates in the Republican presidential primary next month in South Carolina have sidestepped the issue of the Confederate flag flying atop the State house by saying it is an issue for South Carolinians to solve.

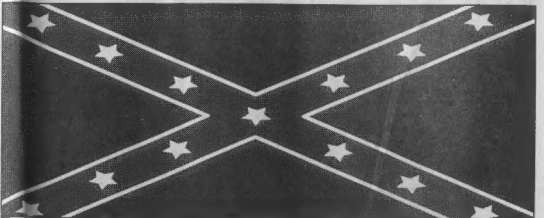
Mrs. Bush said the flag does not offend her personally.

"I grew up in the South — in Texas," she said. "It's just a part of our history that we can't erase."

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Mrs. Bush is speaking for the minority.

A pro-flag rally earlier this year drew six thousand while this week's anti-flag rally drew 46 thousand.

The NAACP has called for a boycott of South Carolina that began Jan. 1 and will end when the flag is removed from the Capitol.



The Time is Now

The biggest scam going is that Affirmative Action should be dismantled in light of white people crying reverse discrimination. And for those black people who feel it should be done-away with, really, have they analyzed the bigger picture here? Oh, the word race, it makes many people cringe with discomfort, especially white people. Why? Because they've been left to carry the ugly burden that forefathers created over 300 years ago. Slavery, Jim Crow, and Black Codes were detrimental trappings that rendered a multitude of problems for the black race. *Race* is the issue for the 21st Century. It must be addressed firmly and with all intent and purpose. White people owe us. Blacks have lagged severely behind socially, economically, politically, educationally, medically, lawfully, you name it and we've been bringing up the rear. This has everything to do with how we arrived on these Atlantic shores, treated less than human and made to work for nothing. Hell, the black family was destroyed way back then, ripped apart from each other until it became innately—and now prisons runneth over with black men. It is not that we're a people of ill values and morals, but what we've had to deal with for hundreds of years have created some ill values and morals within our community. We have to vote, and before casting that vote, we must be informed. Every politician black and white on how they feel about the topic of race, reparations, and affirmative action. If not now then when?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To Whom It May Concern:

Received in today's mail the January 5-11, 2000 edition of the City News and was chagrined to find that Monte Irvin of Orange had been omitted in the article "The Blacks and the New Jersey's 100 history-makers of the century." Monte played for the Giants under the leadership of Tom Duercher and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame—obviously during the century to which you refer.

The late Mayor William S. Hart, Sr. was the first minority community of 70,000 citizens. He

took office on January 1, 1970 (Mayor Gibson was elected in Newark and assumed the office several months later, also in 1970). Perhaps it would have been better to have done more thorough research before printing the aforementioned article. Or better still, why not devote a complete section to all of New Jersey's 100 history-makers of the century. It would then have an historic document to preserve as a memento and it could also be used as a learning-teaching tool in the public schools, churches, etc.

Goldie T. Burbage

The Touchy Question of Reparations

Earl Ofari Hutchinson

(NNPA) — In December, the Dallas City Council approved a resolution asking Congress to set up a commission to study the feasibility of paying reparations to the Black descendants of the victims of slavery. The bill authored by House Democrat John Conyers, Jr. would allocate \$8 million to fund the commission. The city council's endorsement of the bill drew the instant wrath of the White council members.

They claimed the reparations issue will deepen racial fault lines; demonize the federal government; dredge up a long-by-gone past that should be buried; unfairly condemn the plight of Blacks with other victim groups that have received reparations; and ignore the huge economic and social gains Blacks have made since slavery.

The slim majority of the council that passed the resolution dismissed these objections. But the reasons the council members objected to it can't easily be dismissed. They, like many Americans, bristle at the notion of paying Blacks for slavery.

They fervently believe the passage of three civil rights bills, numerous affirmative action statutes, plus of court decisions, a tepid acknowledgment from Clinton, and massive government spending on business, education, housing, health and social programs Blacks are making up for the historic injustice of slavery and its legacy.

They say the toppling of legal segregation and the spectacular rise of a wealthier, better-educated and more upwardly mobile Black middle class are convincing proof that Blacks have gone far in shak-

ing loose the legacy of slavery. They also raise these troublesome questions on the Reparations issue:

White liability. The U.S. government, corporations, and religious groups have been fingered as the prime culprits in maintaining slavery and therefore, Reparations proponents insist, they must pay. While the U.S. government endorsed slavery in its Constitution, and protested and nourished it for a century, it also waged the civil war that cost thousands of white lives, and an ultimate ended slavery. Northern industrialists supplied weapons and financing for the war, and many white churches relentlessly called for the total destruction of slavery. Moreover, the millions of European immigrants came to America decades after the Civil War ended and slavery was formally abolished in 1865. They derived no tangible economic benefits from it.

Money and consequences. No one says come up with a credible sum that should be paid, nor a method of payment. If the U.S. government is indeed liable the prime culprits would fall on taxpayers. This would ignite a monumental backlash among many whites to the use of their tax dollars for reparations.

If it takes a federal commission to help explain if, why and how Reparations should be paid for slavery then Congress should move quickly and set it up. This just might do a lot to make reparations much less of a touchy question for many Americans.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a nationally syndicated columnist and the director of the National Alliance for Positive Action.

By Emory Curtis

(NNPA) — Some old sayings stay around because they hold a shred of truth. One is "Necessity is the mother of invention." In that respect, our key national organization, the NAACP, ought to see the necessity of inventing a national action program to move public schools into focusing on putting our kids on track by the third grade. That will give them a level for the next leg of academic competition in this new digital world.

In today's education environment, too many of our youngsters are lost because they didn't learn to read by the third grade. After the third grade, children must read to learn; that's why non-readers in the fourth grade are non-learners in the sixth grade.

In the very old days, long before this digital age was a gleam in scientist's eyes, this country's economy was agrarian and the great migration of African Americans to the North and West hadn't occurred. In those days, work force participants could have a third or fourth grade education as long as their back was strong.

At that time we were mainly on farms and in country towns where there were no easy jobs. Very few of us held jobs where you didn't have to sweat, and that goes women as well as men and those who lived in the city. Run-of-the-mill jobs then required minimal education. Being able to read, write a bit and do simple calculations was enough to keep them from being out of the store and to send penny (one-cent) postcards to family and friends.

In my early days (a long time ago), I knew very few Black adults and even fewer Latinos who had more than an elementary education. With those few years of formal training they could hold decent jobs and be respected in the community.

At that time education prepared young people to take their place in the work-a-day world. They got the minimum tools they needed, the ability to read, write and do simple calculations at about a third or fourth grade level.

Customs Commissioner Cites Changes In Agency - Critics Question Claims

By Lin Washington Jr.

(NNPA) — An absolute lie!

That is how U.S. Customs Service Commissioner Raymond Kelly terms a claim contained in a sworn affidavit alleging that he advocated punishing Customs employees who filed discrimination complaints against the agency.

Walter Biondi, in a September 1999 affidavit, stated that a former Customs official told him that Kelly said "anyone who filed an LEO complaint was disloyal (and) should be treated accordingly."

"That is an absolute lie. I deny making this statement," said Kelly during a recent exclusive interview with NNPA. "The person alleged in the affidavit as hearing this statement denies that I made it."

"It would be ridiculous to even say something like that in public, even if I believed it," said Biondi's affidavit is part of a lawsuit against the Customs Service and employee critics of Customs give credence to his claim against Kelly.

To the contrary, Kelly said he is proud of changes that he has instituted since taking command of the problem-ridden Customs Service in August 1998.

"I think we've accomplished major changes in the agency. We are trying to do the right things for change," Kelly said during the one-on-one interview at the U.S. Customs House, located in the World Trade Center complex in New York City.

During the past year alone, Customs employees have held public protests over discriminatory disciplinary procedures, minority travelers have filed lawsuits charging Customs with racist search procedures and congressional committees have held hearings on various operational problems within Customs.

That was then. Now is different. Youngsters now must be able to read, write and do simple calculations by the third grade just to progress academically through high school to reach the equivalent community competition level of early day youngsters who only completed the fourth grade.

Those differences in competitive levels are shown by the military who have no use for high school dropouts now. In the old days volunteers and draftees with the equivalence of a fourth or fifth grade education were good enough.

Not the Army, to keep manpower levels up in this booming economic age, is looking at taking non-high school graduates with promise who then must finish their high school education in a finite time or they are back out on the streets.

In the early 40s, the Army faced a manpower problem too. Too many potentials couldn't read or write. The Army took those potentials and put them through an intensive education program to get them into the fourth or fifth grade level in six or nine months. It worked. Fort Devens in Massachusetts. Fort Holabird in Baltimore and

our key national organization, the NAACP, ought to see the necessity of inventing a national action program to move public schools into focusing on putting our kids on track by the third grade.

Camp Stewart in Georgia turned many Black illiterates into good soldiers and, after WWII and army service, they were good functioning citizens.

During that period the Army also found itself short of soldiers who could speak the various European languages like a native of a particular region. The Army solved this problem by sending the potentials to a language school that immediately immersed

than his bite dispute Kelly's assessment of sweeping changes within Customs during his tenure. These critics include employees and ex-employees from all racial groups.

"I refused to work for an agency that was worse than the criminals I looked up," said former Customs drug investigator Darlene Catalon. "This agency is like the Mafia — if you kiss the Don's ring, you're OK. But if you speak up about wrongdoing, they go after you," continued Catalon, an ex-military police captain. Catalon, a White female who worked for Customs in California, said supervisors subjected her to fierce retaliation when she agreed to testify for a Hispanic Customs employee in an employment discrimination lawsuit.

Catalon said Kelly's orders to stop retaliation against employees are not helping victims of this misconduct. Further, Catalon, a member of a group fighting for reforms in Customs, says Kelly's change disciplinary procedures have not eliminated favoritism.

Kelly said he has taken steps to strengthen protection for Customs employees who expose wrongdoing within the agency. However, Customs officials are moving furiously to fire Cathy Harris, a veteran Customs employee in Atlanta, who exposed profiling of Black travelers and has filed numerous discrimination complaints against Customs supervisors. "I'm aware of Cathy Harris but I can't comment on her case," Kelly said.

The Commissioner cautioned that, "You have to understand that a lot of the people claiming to be whistleblowers only do so when they are facing disciplinary actions for other infractions."

Customs officials transferred the White male supervisor in Atlanta responsible for directing

them in that region's language. In about nine months they came out as fairly fluent native speakers of a particular region.

The Army's success changed the way schools taught languages and was the model for the Defense Department's post war Monterey Language School. It wouldn't hurt public schools to look at how the Defense Department is running its 71 domestic base schools that has 34,000 students and copied some things from them.

Almost one-half of the students in the military base schools in the country qualify for free or reduced-price lunch under the federal school lunch program. Almost 4 out of 10 of the students are black or Latino and a like number don't finish the school year where they started. In public schools, those demographic statistics are enough to justify very low scores on standardized tests.

Very, only once in the last six years have the Defense Department's students scored below the national average in standardized tests. Those schools have 4 out of 5 of its high school graduates going on to college; nationally, only 2 out of 5 of public school graduates go to college.

Last year 35 percent of their students in the school lunch program demonstrated writing proficiency; only 10 percent of their counterparts in public schools reached that standard. Twenty six percent of Black students and 32 percent of Latino students in the military base schools demonstrated writing proficiency; nationally, only 7 percent of Black students and 10 percent of Latino students reached that level.

Those numbers put the lie to the general assumption of public school administrators and teachers that the majority of Black and Latino students and those from low-income households are academic achievement bottom feeders.

The military base school's director credits their success to the time and effort spent on teacher training and parent involvement. Local public schools can and should make that same effort. The military is conducting a national focused drive to make it happen.

much of the profiling at that airport exposed by Black. Yet officials fired Harris instead of imposing a lesser penalty.

Two years ago, Customs officials disciplined Harris, a Black female, for failing to report a profiling incident but refused to discipline the White female Customs supervisor who conducted the rudimentary search on a Jamaican traveler.

Double standards in discipline are among instances of discrimination that have prompted the members of the Congressional Black Caucus asked Commissioner Kelly to examine during a meeting in the fall of 1999, according to persons who attended the meeting.

Kelly, during the recent NNPA interview, said he is "aware" of the employment discrimination allegations but does not think that issues was raised at the CBC meeting. "Capitol Hill spokesman said Kelly claimed he was 'not aware' of workplace problems but refused to provide the CBC members with a report on employment discrimination during that meeting. Those CBC members are awaiting Kelly's report."

Kelly bristled when asked repeatedly if he planned to launch a major initiative against employment discrimination comparable to his initiative against allegations concerning profiling. "I'm not sure I know the record," said Kelly, who increased recruitment of Blacks while serving as NYC's Police Commissioner. "When I came to Customs, there were no black Special Agents in Charge. Now we have 3 out of 20."

Kelly says he is a strong "hands-on manager" and will continue working to improve the U.S. Customs Service.

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This is made by City News 111 Mulberry St., NJ, Newark, NJ 07102
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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on planning a will or estate at the New Jersey Law Center, 7 p.m. (732) 248-5000.

NEW BRUNSWICK - A-STEP (Alliance for Successful Teen Employment Program) introductory meeting will be held at 12:00 p.m. at Middlesex County College. For more information, call (732) 245-6207.

JERSEY CITY - A NJ Venture Fair will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on March 20th at the Liberty Science Center. Exhibitor deadline is February 11th. For more information, call (856) 789-8702.

CAMDEN - ABS's Starting a Business will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Camden City College.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

JERSEY CITY - NJAWBO extends a special invitation to all Hudson County Women Business Owners. A Networking & Information Meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at The Breaker-Hoff Group. For more information, call (201) 413-1110.

WASHINGTON - The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce hosts its 63rd Congressional Dinner at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel through Feb. 4. Call (609) 989-7888 for information.

Profile your business' latest events in City News! Send all business calendar items to:

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'100 Most Influential,' black elite in business

The "Top 20 African American Business People" were recently featured in "Business News New Jersey." Many of those selected have been past honorees of City News' "100 Most Influential" — a yearly gala event which recognizes people in the state who have played a vital role in uplifting the black community. From presidents to CEOs of major corporations, these individuals have forged ahead in the world of business and have left a trailblazing path for others to follow.

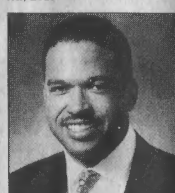


Carol Patterson Brooks, president Correct Communications, Inc., Brooks launched her multicultural marketing communications company in August 1997 with only two clients, but since then has won the favor and marketing budgets of such enviable clients as Allstate Insurance Company, Coca-Cola USA, The Gillette Company, Mobil Oil Corporation and more.



Theodore Wells Jr., partner, Lowenstein Sandler, has built a reputation as one of

William M. Freeman, president and CEO, Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, started his career with New Jersey Bell in 1974. His duties entail regulatory and finance matters along with supervising operations and external affairs. Freeman, who was one of City News' 1999 "100 Most Influential," is a trustee with the Joint Center of Economic and Political Studies in Washington, D.C.

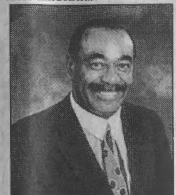


C. Edward Chaplin, treasurer, Prudential Insurance, is in charge of the finances of this 125-year Newark mainstay. The Harvard graduate joined Prudential in 1983 as an associate investment manager in its equity group. Chaplin was one of City News' 1998 "100 Most Influential."



Joe Wilson, CEO, Integrated Packaging, has been featured in "Black Enterprise" magazine as owner of the 45th largest black owned company's in the nation. A manufacturer of corrugated products, Wilson saw revenues in 1999 of \$62 million. A self-made man, Wilson virtually has been in business for himself most of his life. Wilson was a City News 1996 "100 Most Influential."

the top trial lawyers in the country. He has represented such figures as the former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and financier Mike Milken. He currently is also treasurer of the Bill Bradley for president campaign. Wells, too, was a 1996 City News "100 Most Influential."



Louis Prezeau, CEO, City National Bank, is a Haitian immigrant who migrated to the U.S. in 1960. He became a CPA in 1970 and joined the minority-owned Freedom Bank. Because of his creative ability, Prezeau was able to secure a \$5 million loan for the newly structured Metropolitan Baptist Church, something that he is proud of, while turning profits for City National Bank in 1991. Prezeau was a City News 1996 "100 Most Influential."



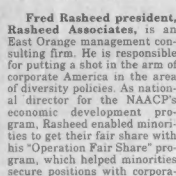
Dorinda Jenkins, executive vice president Summit Bank, is in charge of advertising, corporate communications, retail product development, market research, public relations, and marketing for Summit Bank. A native of Ohio, Jenkins attained a M.A. in labor and human resources from the University of Ohio. Recently, she has been directly involved in the focus of the bank's Internet capabilities. Jenkins was a City News 1997 "100 Most Influential."



Avis Yates, president, Technology Concepts Group, took what was old in computers and made them new, while growing a substantial business and helping others. Because of her innovative business savvy, Yates was able to make computers affordable for a large segment of the population — minorities and women. Yates is vice chair of the National Minority Business Enterprise Committee and has won numerous accolades. Yates was a City News 1996 "100 Most Influential."



Bertram L. Scott, CEO, Horizon Mercy, has not only increased patient rolls but also revenue for the largest Medicaid HMO in New Jersey. He prides himself in the HMO's concern for making health care available for people less likely to be served. Horizon Mercy recently sponsored an informative symposium at Kean University entitled "Building Better Community Health Through the Internet." Scott is a graduate of DePaul University. Scott was a City News 1998 "100 Most Influential."



Fred Rasheed, president, Rasheed Associates, is an East Orange management consulting firm. He is responsible for putting a shot in the arm of corporate America in the area of diversity policies. As national director for the NAACP's economic development program, Rasheed enabled minorities to get their fair share with his "Operation Fair Share" program, which helped minorities secure positions with corpora-

tions. Rasheed was a City News' 1999 "100 Most Influential." Rasheed photo not available.



Richard Spears, president, Real Estate Brokers, is a first in the annals of black history in Hudson County — he owns the only African American real estate firm in the county. He started his business to better serve the African American community, which has been red-lined by other realtors. Spears is the former president of the state's chapter of "100 Black Men." He is also the president of the New Jersey Association of Real Estate Brokers. A Massachusetts native holds a marketing degree from Syracuse University. Spears was a City News 1998 "100 Most Influential."



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Minority Business Journal

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The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The *Directory* networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The *Directory* features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority- and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

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January 28 — February 1, 2000

CITY NEWS A6

POSITIVELY BLACK

by Junious Ricardo Stanton

Give Life To Your Dreams

(NNPA) — "Violent deaths make the news but it is the silent ones, the deaths of our dreams that take the greatest toll on our community." Sojia F. Stanton, Educator "Hold that to dreams for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Hold fast to dreams, for when dreams go, life is a barren field frozen with snow." Langston Hughes, poet, writer

The capacity of imagination much like the gift of life itself, is the Creator's way of replicating him/herself on the physical plane. Each one of us is imbued with the ability to create and form images, mental pictures in our mind's eye, to envision possibilities, in effect creating/describing our world for better or worse. We have the world's most high tech studio in our heads, one in which we can draw, color, texture, shape and synthesize unlimited possibilities for ourselves, our environment and our world.

Our imaginations are a tool to assist us in being co-creators with Oneness in designing and fashioning our vision and relationships with ourselves. If you want to truly dehumanize a people, take away the one thing that makes them alive, create and form images, mental pictures in our mind's eye, to envision possibilities, in effect creating/describing our world for better or worse. We have the world's most high tech studio in our heads, one in which we can draw, color, texture, shape and synthesize unlimited possibilities for ourselves, our environment and our world.

As I have said on many occasions, the most destructive legacy of our oppression both here and in Africa has been our adversaries' determination to keep us from exploring and actualizing our genetic possibilities and potential by making us hate ourselves so much that we attack our own dreams and smother our spirits. We all dream. We dream during the night, and we use our imaginations during the day. Some are mere flights of fancy and fantasy. Others are messages from our subconscious, promptings from the Creator to realize and nudge us towards our destiny and purpose for being.

Many dreams are divine messages sent to us to assist us on our journey on this plane. Think about this for a moment, along with the urges to breathe, sustain ourselves and follow puberty the drive to procreate; our faculties of imagination and cognition are the most dominant and constant aspects of our daily lives. Or they should be. Why? Because the Creator knew that to be fully conscious self-actualizing beings we would need the ability to envision and create ways to manifest our destiny, structure what some "dreamers" call utopia or heaven on earth.

When we study our history, and this is why it is so important to study and know our past, we can see that there were long stretches when Africans lived in peace and harmony. Even after we were invaded or when we were forced to deal with the expansion of the desert by relocating or migrating many miles from our former homelands we reestablished peaceful communities. The Native Americans and other indigenous peoples can also point to legacies of peace. Does this mean no conflicts or disagreements of war ever took place? No. But nowhere else in the world do we have the history of constant warfare, acrimony and fighting that we see in Europe. Why? Because indigenous people understood the need for cooperation, getting along, their societies were based on the extended family rather than individualism and most importantly they knew the power of dreams.

To so called primitive (first, primal) or indigenous cultures dreams were important. They were viewed as an inner communication from their deities or ancestors, Shamans, Medicine Men and Women, were given much respect for their ability to tap their dreams for the benefit of the whole community, tribe or clan.

Trade Center to hold couples' contest

NEW YORK — Ah love... isn't it bias, and doesn't it make you feel like you're on top of the world? For all of the couples out there who are ready to tie the knot, the Top of the World Trade Center Observatories is offering you the opportunity to do it on top of the world on Valentine's Day. By entering the "Make Love on Top of the World Contest," you and your future spouse could be chosen as one of 55 couples to be married on the Top of World Trade Center in an individual, FREE ceremony.

In marathon style, a private ceremony for each of the 55 couples chosen will begin at 12:01 a.m. on Valentine's Day on February 14, and run through 11:00 p.m. Champagne and music will be served around-the-clock. All couples selected will receive free passes for the Top of the World Trade Center Observatories valid for every Valentine's Day. All winners will be offered discounted hotel accommodations courtesy of World Trade Center Marriott

Hotel, and prizes galore: every couple will be given a gift bag filled with CDs, a \$25 gift certificate, and coupons from J&R Music and Computer World and, Godiva Chocolates, Kodak



Cameras and Cigars. Additional prizes will be raffled off: sever-

al appliances (TV, microwave, computer) from J&R, Broadway Tickets to Beauty and the Beast, Footloose and others. Dinners for 2 at Planet Hollywood, Hardrock Cafe, World Yacht, helicopter ride and two tickets for Circle Line Cruises. There will also be a bouquet of flowers for every bride and makeup for brides will be provided by Stephens.

To enter, send a letter telling us why being married on top of the world is the perfect ending to your courtship and the beginning to the rest of your lives. You must be over 18 years of age and have a valid New York State marriage license. The ceremonial day of bliss is open to out-of-state residents and to the public who wish to participate. Please mail all entries to "Make Love on Top of the World" Contest On Top of the World Trade Center Observatories 2 WTC, suite 1520, New York, NY 10048. You can also fax entries to: (212) 323-2322. All entries must be received by February 12, 2000.

How does the Word at your house of worship inspire you?

By Virginia Bryan

Approximately 600 people of different nationalities and cultures attended the recent tribute to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Central Jersey Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club sponsored at St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in Asbury Park. Though the arctic winds blew and extremely cold temperatures persisted, people still came out to help celebrate the memory of Dr. King.

Welcome was made by Shirley Booker, president of the NBPPWC, along with MyChelle Warren, president of the Central Jersey Youth Club. She expressed the positive role our youth exemplify in leadership positions. The Youth Club also presented a skit explaining why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was. They also made exception from some of his famous speeches, reciting incidents of racism, protests and boycotts led by Dr. King. Their skit ended with the words from the old Negro hymn -

"Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

A solo by Stephanie Morreale accompanied by pianist Jason Wells of the song "The Blood" was very moving and inspiring. While the Seacoast Missionary Revival Mass Choir presented a selection of songs "God Is So Good." Their sweet and melodious voices brought joy to the audience.

Rev. Trancy L. Brown was the speaker/prayer of the day. Rev. Brown, originally from Newark, is pastor of Ruth Fel-

lowship Ministries, Inc. Plainfield. She was called into ministry at the age of 13. Her text taken from Galatians 3:28 referenced how we have overcome things such as "Jim Crow" and Apartheid. She went further to say, that today is "A Day On, Not A Day Off," and how we must let our light shine for peace against violence, unity and encouraging our young people. She advised the audience that we should be thanking God for raising up a man such as Dr. King, who helped combat racism, hatred

and segregation. Another strong point she stressed, was that we need to go forward and not look backward. Rev. Brown ended with this advice: "In order for us to keep the dream alive, we must stand for justice, freedom and equality. The audience applauded and these thoughts, hopefully, are ones which will stay imprinted on all of the minds of those in attendance."

A part of the day's offering was sent to the Martin Luther King Program for Social Change.

Newark mayor writes tribute to community activist Bernice Bass

Bernice Bass, one of the most influential names in gospel music, died January 20 at her home in Newark. She was the longtime host of "News and Views," a music and community news program on WNJR radio.

My prayers, those of my family and of the entire City of Newark go out to the family and friends on the passing of my dear, beloved friend, confidant and Newark native, Mother Bernice Bass. Unknown to many, her travels with the late Mahalia Jackson and James Cleveland made her

a legendary resource on gospel music.

Her commitment to Newark and its residents was unwavering. She was truly admired by both her beloved friends and strangers alike as an outspoken and diligent community organizer, activist and WNJR personality. She was the conscience of Newark and her wit and biting criticism of local and national public officials knew no bounds. No one was immune, not even Sharpe James. She challenged all of us to live up to our duties of office, and I loved her for it.



Mayor Sharpe James



Gwen Goldsby Grant

Second Cathedral to hold educational tea party

NEWARK — The Educare Ministry of the Catholic Second Baptist Church, Perth Amboy, presents its first annual "Educational Tea" on Saturday, January 29, 2000 from 2-4 p.m. The keynote speaker will be nationally renowned psychologist and inspirational speaker, Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant of Essence Magazine.

Her topic will be "Educating

our Youth in the New Millennium." The event will be held at the Family Life Enrichment Center, 272 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy. Donation is \$15 with all proceeds to benefit Year 2000 scholarship applicants. The Tea is highly recommended for students, parents of students and concerned individuals. For ticket information telephone: (732) 826-5293.

The Women's Task Force to hold Domestic Violence Forum at Bethany Baptist Church

NEWARK — The Women's Task Force will hold a "Domestic Violence Forum" on Saturday, January 29, 2000 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church on 275 W. Market Street.

The keynote speaker will be Pam MacCauley of the Essex

County Prosecutors Office. Victim/Witness division, which will discuss what domestic violence, and local issues related to forum topic.

For more information, call (973) 623-6161. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Prayer Corner "God's Wings"



An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings.

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die those under the cover of her wings would live. "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you find refuge." (Psalm 36:4). Being loved this much should make a difference in your life. Remember the One who loves you and then be different because of it.

Don't drive faster than your Guardian Angel can fly!

A POEM IN MEMORY OF THE SETON HALL VICTIMS

Today in New Jersey, one of our universities suffered a horrible, horrible fire. Young people laid down last night at Seton Hall University in South Orange basking in a sweet basketball victory and thinking that today would be just another day. Over 52 students were sent to area hospitals—many released, but some fighting for their lives. Three are known dead. Parents are shocked, college staffs and students are mourning, and the rest of us stand by helplessly—and thinking about how fragile our lives really are.

After all of the chaos today, I opened my PC and found this poem that was sent to me by a friend.

I share it with my family and friends with a prayer and Mmmmmmm.

—Jeannine

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Local Briefs

RICE LAW: KEEP YOUR LICENSE AND GET TO WORK

TRENTON — A new law, enacted recently and sponsored by Senator Ron Rice, will help protect many young people from using the excuse that they can't find work because they don't have a driver's license, said the Essex County Democrat.

"I just got tired of hearing young people on the street complain that they can't find work because they lost their licenses from parking tickets," said Rice. "That's not an acceptable excuse in my opinion."

Rice said he devised the bill, S-1622, to allow those receiving state income support (welfare) to work out a timed payment plan instead of losing their licenses for failing to pay parking tickets.

"A lot of parking tickets in urban areas have a way of disappearing before they get paid and this disappearance, over time, has resulted in sudden suspensions of driving privileges," Rice said. "With this law, a driver who is indigent should not pay a payment plan without losing their license."

City Hall announces promotion of 50 of Newark's finest

Newark Mayor Sharpe James and Police Director Joseph J. Santagelo recently announced the promotion of 50 of Newark's finest, citing the need to provide greater officer accountability and supervision to the Police Department's more than 1,500 police officers.

"More than 1,100 new Newark Police officers have been hired in the last ten years. A lot of new faces over 400 police officers has created the need to increase the level of supervision in our department," said Director Santagelo. "The promotion will be utilized to supervise the many initiatives put in place by the Newark Police Department."

The 50 promotions are comprised of 1 Deputy Chief, 3 Captains, 12 Lieutenants and 30 Sergeants.

An essential component to the success of the Department's crime fighting efforts is officer accountability. During the department's weekly COMSTAT conference, supervisors are held accountable for crime within the areas of their control and for the actions of the personnel they supervise in addition to providing increased supervision for the department's personnel. The promotions are exciting vacancies and continue the Department's progress. They will ensure adequate supervision for the Department's growing force. Mayor James said, "Director Santagelo's emphasis on accountability and officer supervision is a key to our success in reducing crime. This promotion is a significant crime reduction since we've since his appointment. Our overall crime is down more than 43 percent and public confidence is at an all time high."

The supervisors represent the Police Department's future. They will be tasked with continuing the Department's progress and leading the Department in the new millennium.

KFC announces UNCF scholarship

KFC not long ago announced the implementation of the KFC/UNCF Scholars Program, a scholarship program designed to nurture and build future leaders and entrepreneurs. The four-year scholarship will enable eligible students to attend one of the 39 United Negro College Fund-sponsored historically black colleges, with all expenses paid.

"At KFC, we actively develop a workforce that is diverse in style and background," said Chuck Rawley, the president and chief operating officer of KFC. "With the establishment of the UNCF, it is our intention to build upon that tradition. The KFC/UNCF Scholarship Program was developed because we are committed to helping create future generations of talented entrepreneurs who will bring new levels of innovation and productivity back to their communities."

The scholarship program will be offered beginning in January 2000. Because of the vested interest KFC has in its workers, it is offering them the opportunity to win the KFC/UNCF Scholarship Program. Students will be selected by winners from those students who have worked at KFC for at least one year. Students qualifying for the scholarship will have at least a 3.0 grade point average (and maintain that throughout their college careers) be involved in extra-curricular activities while in high school, and attend an UNCF-sponsored historically black college. Winners will also have the opportunity to take an internship at KFC corporate headquarters in Louisville or with any field or franchise restaurant operation.

Senior Legislative Issues Coalition keeps Union County's senior citizens informed

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Services Center was the site of a recent meeting of the Senior Legislative Issues Coalition of Union County. The Coalition is a grassroots, non-partisan group that acts as advocates for legislation affecting the lives of Union County seniors by helping them to be independent and to live with dignity. It was formed in October, 1998 because of the concern about the continued erosion of funding for senior programs such as transportation, home-delivered meals and medical care.

"The Coalition grew out of the Union County Advisory Council on Aging," said Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr., the Council's Freeholder liaison. "But it functions as an independent unit. The Coalition represents the interests of 98,000 Union County senior citizens with many senior groups from throughout the County participating. The Coalition is fighting to protect and improve the Social Security and Medicare programs which they consider basically sound and want to see maintained in their present structures."

"This latest meeting was a call to arms to sign letters to Senator Frank Lautenberg and Robert Torricelli as well as Congressmen Bob Franks, Robert G. Torricelli and Dennis P. Ryan, asking for re-authorizing and voting for increased federal funding for the Older Americans Act

(OAA). The act was established in 1965 to provide a broad array of home and community-based services that keep frail older adults, age 60 and over, and who are in the greatest economic and social need, independent in their own homes and communities as long as possible," added Freeholder Mingo. "Without the OAA, these services, such as home-delivered meals, home and community health care, both in-home services; transportation; legal services; senior centers; information and referral, which are delivered through state and area agency networks, would be vulnerable. The OAA is the only federal program that provides for the aging population and their greatly longevity. Congress has severely cut funding for the OAA in the last five years, putting the elderly at increased risk of costly institutionalization and depriving families caring for a loved one at home of critical support."

Freeholder Chairman Nick Scutari noted that the legislators also asked for support for the Social Services Block Grant that allows states to provide essential and referral services to vulnerable older adults, as well as children and families and persons with disabilities. In addition, Scutari said the legislators are being urged to enact the Family Caregiver Support Program which would enable local area agencies on aging, funding through the OAA to assist more than a quarter of a million families



Members of the Senior Legislative Issues Coalition of Union County gathered recently in Plainfield.

lies at \$125 million per year for five years to receive critically needed support services.

"This initiative, while providing resources also acknowledges the role of family caregivers who play with minimal or no help takes on the bias toward family based care in this country and recognizes as well as strengthens the role of local area agencies on aging in providing home and community-based long-term care," Scutari added.

The first keynote speaker at this packed meeting was Bud McLeod, AARP's District Coordinator for Morris County and their Social Security Specialist

for Union and Morris Counties. McLeod discussed the issues involved in the current congressional deliberations about the Older Americans Act, Social Security and Medicare and how some of the proposed changes would impact on the lives of America's retirees.

The second keynote speaker was Sue Lachenmeyer, the New Jersey State Public Policy Coordinator with the Alzheimer's Association. Lachenmeyer gave an impassioned talk about the need to adequately fund the proposed National Family Caregivers Support Program through the OAA. She appealed to the

coalition to continue its efforts on behalf of this little known but worthwhile program that would support the desire of a caring family to keep an older member at home.

"I'd like to thank Miriam Dickman and Bob Max for all of the hard work involved in being co-chairs of the Coalition and the meeting," added Mingo. "Miriam is also Vice President in charge of Programming and a Past President of the New Jersey OWL (The Older Women's League). Bob is also Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Union County Advisory Council on Aging."

Abyssinian Baptist Church will host town hall meeting for fathers and community leadership

NEW YORK CITY — Hundreds of low-income fathers and leading fatherhood movement policymakers gathered for a "Town Hall Meeting" at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 19, the Washington, D.C., fatherhood-advocacy group the National Center for Strategic Nonprofit Planning and Community Leadership (NCPCL) hosted recently.

The Harlem meeting was the first in a series to be hosted by NCPCL, a leader in the movement

to help connect low-income fathers and their children.

"Fatherlessness is a plague affecting children across America," said John J. Johnson, president of NCPCL. "A third of all children are born out of wedlock and among African-Americans the figure is 70 percent. Just blasting so-called deadbeat dads is not a solution."

In a "two-bits" approach, the organization planned a morning policy makers briefing

from 10:00 a.m. and an afternoon talk session from 1:30-3:30 p.m. with celebrity dads from the world of entertainment and sports, together with poor fathers. Both sessions occurred downstairs in the church's vestry.

Invited morning participants included Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY).

Afternoon participants included hip-hop artist Nas and former NFL great and current NFL Player Association president Carl Banks.

Longtime social activist Rev. Calvin Butts moderated the morning session and Bill Stephney, former Def Jam Recordings president and 19-year entertainment industry veteran, moderated the afternoon session.

The related events took place at Abyssinian, 122 W. 138th Street in Manhattan. Langham Mitchell Communications, which handled the media outreach on this issue for NCPCL.

Union County College receives government grant to establish the Community Learning Network in Elizabeth

CRANFORD — Union County College has received a grant in the amount of \$429,996 from the federal government's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIAP) to develop the Community Learning Network in the City of Elizabeth. With this project, UCC will partner with the Elizabeth Public Library and the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth to connect unemployed and underemployed youths and adults to the college's lifelong learning literacy and occupational training programs. UCC will use network technology to create two community learning labs

and two interactive (ITV) classrooms. Thus, the Community Learning Network will be a complete learning center with technology-based instruction for adults.

TIAP is a highly competitive, merit-based grant program that brings the benefits of an advanced national information infrastructure to communities throughout the U.S. TIAP grants play an important role in the development of the information society by demonstrating practical applications of new telecommunications and information technologies to serve the public interest. Established in 1994, TIAP has provided grants

to state, local and tribal governments, health care providers, health care and public health departments, and community-based non-profit organizations. TIAP projects show how information networks can provide lifelong learning for Americans, help public safety officials protect the public assist in the delivery of health care and public health services, and establish communication, resource-sharing and information networks in rural and urban communities. Since its inception, TIAP has awarded 421 grants in all 50 states, totaling \$115.5 million and leveraging \$203 million in local matching funds. TIAP projects

are nationally significant demonstrations of how telecommunications and information technologies can extend and improve the delivery of valuable services and opportunities to all citizens, especially the underserved.

According to Dr. John R. Farrell, Jr., Vice President of Administrative Services and Assistant to the President, "Union County College is honored to receive this grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce has shown confidence in the community learning network concept by providing TIAP funding. It is the college's hope that the project will improve the level of literacy and job skills of

the educationally and economically disadvantaged." The goal is to improve the employability of the participants and allow them to become economically self-sufficient.

Union County College is a public comprehensive community college and is a member of New Jersey's system of nineteen county colleges. The College operates major campuses in Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Scotch Plains, and enrolls approximately 9,000 full and part-time students. All four campuses are located in the New York metropolitan area and are easily accessible by car and public transportation.

Newark students get \$12G in scholarships

NEWARK — Three senior students from Weequahic High School in Newark were presented with scholarships worth a total of \$12,000 at a youth seminar on Friday, January 14 at the school. The students are among only six in New Jersey to receive the scholarships, awarded by the Horatio Alger Association, a non-profit educational organization that awards scholarships nationwide.

The seminar, "Start the Century Right: Give Back to Your Community," was organized in collaboration with the Horatio Alger Association as part of their 1999-2000 Youth Seminar and

Scholarship Program. Vaughn Crowe, a scholarship winner and former Weequahic High School graduate, will be the keynote speaker.

In addition, Paul Annan was presented with a \$10,000 National Scholarship, Anneke Elliott a \$1,500 State Scholarship, and Bertha Boateng a \$200 Student Achievement Scholarship. As a National Scholarship winner, Paul will travel all expenses paid to the association's National Scholars Conference in Washington DC in May.

"Our students were selected by the Horatio Alger Association because they have overcome

hardships and are achieving academically. We are very proud of them," said Weequahic High School principal Edna Bailey.

Newark Public Schools administrators, representatives from the City of Newark and Weequahic alumni will join 11th and 12th grade students for the morning ceremony and presentation, which starts at 9:15 a.m. Following lunch, members of the alumni will speak to students in class about their careers since graduating from the school. Weequahic High School is located at 279 Chancellor Avenue in Newark.

Prestigious minority high school journalism workshop to take place at Monmouth University

WEST LONG BRANCH — Monmouth University recently announced that its department of communication at Monmouth University has been named the new home of the Hugh N. Boyd Minorities Journalism Workshop. The program is funded by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc., the New Jersey Press Foundation, Monmouth University and newspapers from around the state.

This prestigious program is designed to inspire talented minority high school students to study and pursue careers in journalism. Each summer, the 22-year-old workshop recruits 16 minority high school juniors and seniors from around the state to live on a university cam-

pus for two weeks of intensive hands-on journalism experience. Led by working journalists, young people participate in writing and photography workshops, take field trips to cover breaking news events and produce their own newspaper.

"This workshop gives high school students a close look at a profession that is not well understood by many," said Dr. Eleanor M. Novak, workshop director and a faculty member of the department of communication at Monmouth University. "It is a wonderful opportunity that can make a difference in a teenager's life."

Novak is a former professional journalist who teaches journalism and communication

theory and research at Monmouth. As part of her dissertation, she helped high school students in Philadelphia publish a community newspaper.

In the past, mainstream newspapers have overlooked news when it came to birthing or representing minorities," said Novak. "This type of program is a dedicated effort to change that."

The newspaper binds those Monmouth University based on its curriculum, recruitment efforts and the mix of professional journalists and faculty members that will be involved with the workshop. This year's session will run from July 16-25. The deadline for application is March 15.

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CityLife

January 26-February 1, 2000

City News B1

Black History Month, join the celebration!

A calendar of events

By Gilda Rogers

With a history richer than black strap molasses, more dynamic than intricate mosaic art, the copyright owners of soul, and the thesis for what is hip - the preservation of Black History was ideal in the mind of Carter G. Woodson, the father of Negro History Week.

In 1925, the noted scholar established what has now blossomed into Black History Month. This act, initiated by Woodson, helped to educate and elevate the minds of young black children about their heritage. It also countered and dismantled in the minds of others, the ill-conceived notion of black people as lazy, shiftless people, but rather to be more appropriately viewed as a prolific race of esteemed individuals.

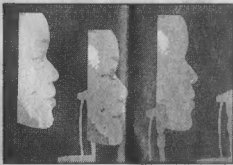
Originally celebrated between the birthdays of antislavery activist Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, Black History Month is now observed throughout



Time... Africa and The Diaspora

the nation during the month of February, in various ways - and you're invited to join the celebration!

Time... Africa and The Diaspora - The 20th Anniversary of the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series to take place February 18 at 7:30 p.m. at The Newark Museum, and February 19 at 9:30 a.m. at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University, Newark Campus 350 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The conference is presented by the Federated Department of History at Rutgers. Participants will include: Dr. Ali Mazrui, Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University, will give Marion Thompson Wright Lecture. Other speakers include Professor Said Samatar of Rutgers; Professor Wunty Troupe of the University of California at San Diego; Professor Joseph E. Adjaye of Pittsburgh University and Lonnie G. Bunch III of the Smithsonian Institution. Performers include: Steve Colson, Reggie



Distinguished African Women Lecture Series

Workman, Andrew Cyrille, and Oliver Lake.

Distinguished African Women Lecture Series - The Center for African Studies Rutgers University, New Brunswick Campus will present Gertrude Mongella from Tanzania on Feb. 2, at Traves Hall on the Douglass Campus at 6 p.m. Mongella is a world famous educator, politician and diplomat who served as the Secretary General of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. On Feb. 29, Yasmine Fall from Senegal will speak at 6 p.m. She has traveled throughout the African continent to research and consult on such issues as gender and development, trade, environmental management, reproductive health, social rights, education and health reforms.

The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street

The Newark Public Library will hold an Opening Reception on Feb. 3 to open the exhibition - "African American Prints: Let Us Forget." The reception formally inaugurates the library's celebration of African American History Month. The keynote speaker for this event will be Viola H. Sanders, president of Vi's Services, Inc., whose mission is to share historical truths about the heritage of black people. Sanders is also the curator of six exhibitions and publishes and annual "Historic Black Heritage Calendar."

The exhibit housed on the second-floor gallery of the main library will represent some of the most significant "firsts" achieved by blacks, focusing on those in New Jersey. With about 3,000 documented black firsts, those individuals and historical sites selected for inclusion in this exhibition were from major documented sources. It is hoped that all who patronize this exhibition will become more enlightened by the numerous achieve-

ments of black firsts, and a greater sense of pride will be developed by all blacks, especially the youth.

February 2: The Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society remembers the Civil Rights Movement with a special guest speaker. African American room at 6:30 p.m.

February 5: Winney Terry and Troupe in a family program entitled "African Discovery Through Music." Centennial Hall at 2 p.m.

February 8: Black America on Stage: The African Globe Theatre Works presents August Wilson's Fences. Centennial Hall at 6 p.m.

February 10: An extraordinary lecture on James Brown, the celebrated librarian and community leader, presented by Amiri Baraka. Centennial Hall at 6 p.m.

February 17: The male chorus of First Timothy Baptist Church of Newark presents a lively evening of inspirational music. Centennial Hall at 6:30 p.m.

February 22: Black America on Stage: The Black Spectrum Youth Theatre presents two performances of The Mystery of Phillis Wheatley. Centennial Hall at 1:30 p.m. 6 p.m.

February 28: The Drama Club of Arts High School presents excerpts from "The Colored Museum." Centennial Hall at 6:30 p.m.

The Urban League of Union County Guild - will celebrate the Black History Program "2000" for the month. The Poetry Festival - open mike will be held Feb. 8, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Public Library on South Broad Street. If you would like to be on the program, contact Sally Hughes (908) 658-3300 ext. 3502.

"Discover Book Fair" Kicks Off Black United Fund Black History Month - Would parents encourage their children's love of reading if they could? Of course. What's more, they can! "Scholastic Book's 'Discovery Fair' comes to the Black United Fund of New Jersey on Feb. 1, to bring the newest books and exciting learning products from more than 150 publishers to readers of all ages. The fair which is open to the community is the first of several events planned for Black History Month 2000 at the Mansion.

The fair is open each day from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A special event "East Orange Reads: A Family Affair" on Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will feature special activities, refreshments and door prizes. The Mansion is located at 132 South Harrison Street. For additional information telephone (973) 676-5283.

Community Works Opens Civil Rights Exhibition - "The Long Walk to Freedom" - Presents Portraits of Activists Then and Now on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Gallery 1199 310 W. 43rd Street - between 8th and 9th Ave., NYC. "The Long Walk to Freedom" uses photographs, archival materials, quotes, artwork, and music to explore a crucial time in our country when "ordinary" people did extraordinary things. The exhibition highlights the contribution of 15 civil rights activists and how the examples of their lives provide a blueprint for future activism for the young people who studied them through Community. For information, call Shelly Cryer (212) 665-0688 or (212) 455-1854.



Black History Month Gallery Show at Seton Hall University; photo depicted is entitled "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Black History Month Gallery Show at Seton Hall University - will feature the art work of John Horace Stone being exhibited starting on Feb. 3.

Black History Exhibit Opens at Carriage House in Cape May - Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts opened the "A Feeling of Community: Revised: Cape Island African American Heritage" on Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday and will run through February 27, highlights the heritage and contributions of Cape May's African American community through photographs, oral history excerpts and artifacts.

Black Lynchings on Display in New York Gallery - The Roth Horowitz Gallery located at 160 A.E. 70th Street will feature a remnant of Black history many would like to forget: A History of Lynchings in America. Some 60 photos, mostly of blacks lynched in the South between 1883 and 1960, depict the brutalities of females either being lynched, burned, or dragged while whites stand posing, some actually smiling in the pictures. According to the collector, James Allen, who has been collecting the gruesome collectibles for more than a decade, the photographs were taken by professional photographers during or immediately after a lynching. One postcard sent by a son to his mother read: "This is the barbecue we had last night, this is what we had." The New York Times called it an "Ugly legacy of American history." Another photo depicts Frank Embree, stripped naked, standing on a buggy, with his hands shackled, and his back ripped apart from having been brutally whipped. The photograph was dated July 22, 1899. "He hasn't lost his dignity," stated Allen, whose book "Without Sanctuary" is scheduled to be released next month.

Philadelphia Museum of Art Presents - "Bounty" of Works on Paper by African American Artists on view in the Museum's Berman Gallery from February 5 through April 16, will present a chronological survey of some 75 pieces selected from the Museum's holdings of over 200 works of art on paper by 20th Century blacks.

To illustrate the collection's beginnings, Exuberant Bounty will include the Museum's earliest acquisitions in this area: five spectacular watercolors by the Philadelphia-based artist Sam Brown (1907-94), which were received in 1934 on deposit from the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration. Prints and drawings by contemporary artists Charles Burwell, Quentin Morris, Howardena Pindell, and Charles Searles will be joined by earlier work by locally based creative pioneers such as Humbert Howard (1915-90) Raymond Steth (1917-97) and Dox Thrash (1892-1965).

Project Redirect's Nia Awardees are . .

Recently, Project Redirect Youth and Family Services held a reception at the Women In Support of the Million Man March Mansion (WISOMMM) to honor and spotlight women, who serve as a shining example for young ladies in their communities.

According to Sharon Berry, president and founder of Project Redirect/Youth and Family Services, the women selected, Joyce Hurley, Fleet Bank senior vice-president; Fredrica Bey, executive director of WISOMMM; Dr. Gwen Goldsby Grant, psychologist and columnist for Essence Magazine; Roz Samuels, Treasurer/secretary Newark Teacher's Union; Jan Johnson, publisher of City News; Yvonne Calcagno, First Union assistant vice president; Maria Vizcarrondo DeSoto, president and CEO of United Way of Essex and West Hudson; Dorothy Knauer, deputy executive director of Community Action Corporation, all exemplify the meaning of Nia, which is one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Due to a scheduling conflict Marion Bolden, superintendent of Newark public schools; Mary Mathis Ford, president of Board of Concerned Citizens; Martha Clavus, program director of Area Health Education of Camden; Sister Eileen McNally, New Community Corp; and Carolyn Wallace, executive director of International Youth Organization, whom also were honored were unable to attend.

"These women represent the concept of Nia, which is purpose," said Berry. "They have shown the qualities that we are developing in our young ladies ages 11-15."

This reception was a get acquainted networking event for the board of directors and advisory board and the Nia awardees of Project Redirect/Youth and

"These women represent the concept of Nia, which is purpose. They have shown the qualities that we are developing in our young ladies ages 11-15."
— Sharon Berry

Family Services. The main event, which will include a dinner and awards presentation will take place May 11, at the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, from 6-10 p.m. This event will also serve as a fundraiser to develop Nia enrichment programs for the organization, in its mission is to develop young ladies of purpose. In existence for only three years, the mission statement of the organization is to prevent child abuse, and juvenile delinquencies.

"This is a relatively young organization that has accomplished much in a short period of existence," said Berry.

The two-year program which meets every Saturday, "Education for the year 2000" concentrates on building social skill development for elementary age students at the S. 17th St. School, Newark. There's also the I.M.B.A II (Single Intelligent Males with Bold Ability) male mentoring program. The organization has initiated and conducted statewide public awareness and child abuse campaigns for the last three years. For the past two years, the organization has recognized and rewarded (saving bonds, awards, trophies) to young people throughout the Greater Newark area who have succeeded despite the odds.

Berry, who realized there was a need for more community based organizations and her desire to be more proactive in dealing with issues pertaining to children, especially males, became the catalyst for what is now Project Redirect/Youth and Family Services.

Currently, the organization is recruiting mentors and conducting a search recruitment for a board of directors, and persons interested in advocating for children and their families. For additional information please telephone: (988)-868-9697 or (732) 424-9697.



Fredrica Bey poses with a guest.



Awardees from left to right: Dorothy Knauer, Roz Samuels, Maria Vizcarrondo DeSoto, Jan M. Edgerton Johnson, Joyce Hurley, Dr. Gwen Goldsby Grant, Sharon Berry, and Fredrica Bey.



Dorothy Knauer

Photos by
William
Frazier



Joyce Hurley



Jan M. Edgerton Johnson



Maria Vizcarrondo DeSoto



Dr. Gwen Goldsby Grant



Fredrica Bey



Joyce Hurley

HeartBeat

January 26 — February 1, 2000

City News B3

Heartbeat Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

TEANECK — The Stella C. Van Houten Women's Outpatient Center of Holy Name Hospital is offering The Breast Cancer Support Group for Children ages 7 to 12, from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

TEANECK — The Stella C. Van Houten Women's Outpatient Center of Holy Name Hospital is offering The Breast Cancer Support Group for Spouses/Significant Others from 8 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

TEANECK — The Stella C. Van Houten Women's Outpatient Center of Holy Name Hospital is offering The Breast Cancer Support Group for Teens ages 13 to 18 from 10 to 11 a.m. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Medical Center has a Support Group for Newly-Diagnosed Breast Cancer Patients from 6 to 8 p.m. that will meet every second Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (201) 915-2000.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — The next Ceregrity/Alzheimer Support Group of Runnels Specialized Hospital of Union County will meet from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Family Conference Room. For more information, call (908) 771-5834.

TEANECK — The Women's Outpatient Center's Mid-Life Management Program offers a free lecture on "Getting Physical - Body movement techniques to stay fit past 40." From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Marian Hall. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

NEW BRUNSWICK — The NJ State Bar Foundation presents a free seminar for the public on "Medicare-Medicaid Maze" from 1 to 2 p.m. at the NJ Law Center. For more information, call 1-800-FREE LAW.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Ceregrity/Alzheimer's Family Support Group at Runnels Specialized Hospital of Union County from 1 to 2 p.m. every 3rd Thursday of each month. For more information, call (908) 771-5834.

TEANECK — The Women's Outpatient Center's Mid-Life Management Program offers a free lecture on "More Than Skin Deep" (Skin, eye, and dental changes in middle age and beyond) from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Marian Hall. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

Want to inform all of Black North and Central New Jersey about your upcoming health event? Send your calendar items to:

Health Calendar
City News

111 Mulberry St.
Suite 1F
Newark, NJ
07102

We've come a long way in the past hundred years

By Larry Lucas

What were the big changes of the 20th century? Everybody talks about air travel, space travel, television, computers and, of course, the civil rights movement. But what may be more important in the lives of ordinary Americans are the enormous changes in health. And for African Americans, access to health care greatly improved, partly as a result of the civil rights movement.

In 1900, the average age at death was 47; today, it's approaching 80. Life expectancy increased more in the 20th century than in the entire time between the Bronze Age and 1900, mainly because of the development of vaccines and antibiotics to hold infectious diseases in check. Medicines are reducing deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke the leading killers of today. The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness—once warehoused in institutions and shunned or hidden by their families—can now be treated in the community with effective medicines so they can lead productive lives. We now have insulin for diabetes; contraceptives to make family planning possible; effective medicines for arthritis; medicines to improve the health of women after menopause; medicines that make organ replacement possible—all of which were unknown at the turn of the last century. What medicines once dreamed of today—will be commonplace by the beginning of the 22nd century?

No one knows for certain, but scientists believe we are on the verge of exciting new breakthroughs. If the 20th century was the "golden age" of drug discovery,

For African Americans, access to health care greatly improved, partly as a result of the civil rights movement.

the 21st century may turn out to be the platinum age. Genomics—the study of genes and their function—offers much greater understanding of the

underlying cause of disease, the ways in which drugs operate, and the way to create new treatments. And new technologies with such sci-fi names as x-ray crystallography, high-throughput screening and bioinformatics are helping researchers turn knowledge about human genes into medicines. Already, the genomic revolution has yielded breakthrough medicines for heart attack, stroke, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, diabetes, hemophilia, cystic fibrosis and other diseases.

Hundreds more medicines are under development. Early in the next century, patients may have available:

"grow your own coronary bypasses"—a treatment that prompts the heart to grow new blood vessels to bypass clogged

arteries. vaccines that provoke the immune system to fight cancer. drugs that struggle blood vessels that feed tumors.

"inhibitor" drugs that could stop the growth of tumors, turning cancer into a manageable disease.

a vaccine for Alzheimer's disease.

Nearly every day the media report breathtaking advances in science that could lead to vast improvement in human health. In the words of a pharmaceutical company researcher, "Hang on to your hats—great things are coming down the line."

Larry Lucas is Associate Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

East Orange takes steps to secure future



EAST ORANGE — East Orange General Hospital (EOGH), in a move to secure its future as Essex County's only independent hospital, has taken steps to assure its financial stability. The Hospital's Board of Trustees and Administration announced recently.

"Impacted by market-based changes and health care reform, EOGH, other New Jersey hospitals and hospitals across the nation are not receiving adequate funding," said President and Chief Executive Officer Darlene L. Cox. "In fact, managed care, HMOs and federal and state regulations have greatly reduced the ability of hospitals to survive."

In an effort to stay ahead of today's health care industry financial crisis, EOGH has been implementing cost efficiencies to both operations and personnel. There has been a hiring freeze in effect, resulting in cost savings through attrition. However, no, for the first time in the Hospital's history, it is apparent staff reductions are necessary. "The

actual number of employees impacted by this cost-saving measure is not yet available

because vacant positions throughout the facility will be made available to affected

employees," said Vice President of Human Resources, Dean Civitello. "In actuality, the num-

ber of employees affected by staff reduction will be lower due to the foresight of our administration."

East Orange General Hospital is the last hospital in Essex County to experience some level of layoffs and is one of the last hospitals in the state to reluctantly resort to this measure. As with many of its counterparts in the industry, EOGH will reorganize and regroup with no sacrifice to its patients and the quality of care they have come to expect.

East Orange General Hospital has been, and continues to be, a vital part of the community it serves for nearly 100 years. Originally established in Newark in 1903 as the Homopathic Hospital of Essex County, EOGH today is just as dedicated and focused on providing the finest of health care for this community.

East Orange General Hospital is a 262 licensed-bed and 209 maintained-bed acute care facility providing both in-patient and out-patient medical and surgical services to more than 7,900 patients in 1999.

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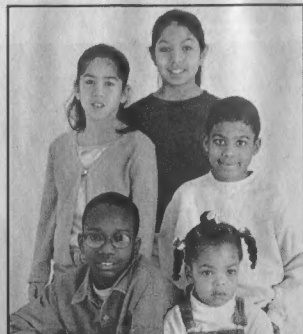
Published every Wednesday

City News takes a look at the health issues on the minds of African Americans in a special section titled

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Billboard

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

TEANECK — The American Stage Company presents the play "The Crystal Goblet." Call (201) 692-7744 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Crossroads Theater presents the play "Velvet Eyes." Call (732) 240-5560 for information.

MONTECLAIR — The Luna Stage presents the play "The Queen of Thebes." Call (973) 744-3399 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents its "Jazz For Young People" series at the Apollo Theater. 10:30 a.m. (212) 875-5084.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents Richard Scarry's "Busy Town." 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the Ladyship Black Menzies featuring the Might Clouds of Joy. 8 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJ-PAC.

NEWARK — New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents Randy James Dance Works. "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" at 2 p.m. in the Victoria Theater for ages 6 and up. For more information, call (973) 297-5834.

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents "The Black-Cat Jazz" hosted by Danilo Perez and Wynton Marsalis at the Apollo Theater. 11 a.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJ-PAC for more information, call (212) 721-6500.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

NEW YORK — The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the NY Public Library presents the play "Hansel and Gretel" by Charles G. Lister. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call (212) 491-2040.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

ENGLEWOOD — Internationally acclaimed Boys Choir of Harlem brings its enchanting repertoire to The John Harms State 8:00 p.m. as part of the Classical Series. For more information, call (201) 567-5797.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEWARK — New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" by Charles G. Lister. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call (973) 297-5834.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" by Charles G. Lister. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call (732) 247-7200.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEWARK — NJ Performing Arts Center's Bell Atlantic Family Time Series presents a special homecoming concert with Newark's Deni Couterline, Derek Lee Ragin and Pianist Kevin Sharpe at 2:00 p.m. in the Victoria Theater. For more information, call (973) 297-5834.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEWARK — A salute to Broadway featuring favorite show tunes will be held 7:30 p.m. in the Prudential Hall, NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

BROOKLYN — 651 ARTS presents a new annual dance program which features the history, present and future of Black choreography at 8 p.m. at the BAM Harvey Theater through February 16th. For more information, call (718) 636-4181.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

NEWARK — A salute to Broadway featuring favorite show tunes will be held 8:00 p.m. in the Prudential Hall, NJ Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

RED BANK — Metropolitan Entertainment Group presents Monty Python who will be performing at the Court House Theatre at 8 p.m. For more information, call (212) 965-4600.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

TRENTON — Vocalist Monica Menéndez joins David Comandante and the NISO in "A Tribute to Henry Mancini" takes place at 8:00 p.m. at the War Memorial. For more information, call (973) 624-9713.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

NEWARK — Vocalist Monica Menéndez joins David Comandante and the NISO in "A Tribute to Henry Mancini" takes place at 8:00 p.m. at the NJPAC. For more information, call (973) 624-9713.

Send your Entertainment Information to City News Fax to: ARTZ Calendar (973) 642-5444

Illiterate until age 98, 102-year-old Dallas author says life is just getting started

By Susan Parrott

DALLAS (AP) — The old black man grasped the pencil and drew a small X on the back of a sheet of notebook paper.

"All those years, that was all I had," said George Dawson. "I been everywhere but I could never write my name."

Dawson got by for nearly a century with two crossed lines. Everything changed when he turned 98.

It was 1996. A literacy volunteer knocked on his doorstep in a poverty-stricken area of south Dallas. Adult education courses were being taught a few blocks away at the old high school.

Dawson didn't hesitate a moment. He became the Dallas school district's oldest — and most celebrated — student.

"I never thought I was too old to learn," said Dawson, who turned 102 this week. "That was the most important thing I did, to learn one letter from another."

That was before he wrote a book about his life with the help of co-author Richard Glaubman, a Seattle-area teacher. Published by Random House, "Life Is So Good," will be available in bookstores in February.

It's only the latest chapter for the grandson of slaves, born in the East Texas town of Marshall on Jan. 18, 1898.

As the oldest of five children, he went to work instead of school. Life's lessons were never easy.

One of Dawson's earliest memories haunts him still. At the age of 10, he said, he saw an innocent young black man being hit by a mob in downtown Marshall. Accused of impregnating a white girl, the 17-year-old was hanged from an old oak tree.

Dawson said witnessing the tragedy changed his life. He learned to survive by spotting trouble and heading the other way.

"I thought about that lots of times," Dawson said, dabbing at tears streaming from his eyes.

"There was lots of lynchings. Lots of things going on. I never did want to mix with people. I never said anything. I went on."

He said he never became bitter about the injustices faced by blacks during the days when a Klan hood snarled at him as he drank from a separate water fountain and could not talk to a white man without bowing his head.

Dawson said he learned from his parents to focus on the good in life.

"I always thought what had



Jackie Robinson was one of his favorite people he couldn't read about until he was 96 years old.

n't been is meant to be," Dawson said. "The sun is hot, but after a while it cools off. It's got to change."

He says blacks still have far to go in the fight for equality.

"Something has changed and some hasn't," Dawson said. "I don't know whether it will ever get to where one man is the same as another."

At age 12, Dawson's father hired him out to a white family for \$1.50 a month. Dawson lived on his employer's farm so that his own family would have one less mouth to feed. He worked as hard as any man.

When he turned 21, he worked his way across the country, traveling by steam train.

Dawson's inability to read meant he often was at the mercy of others. He once paid for a railroad ticket from Marshall to Cleveland, then found out it would only take him as far as St. Louis.

"They wouldn't tell me the truth," Dawson said. "I had to take what they'd say."

But still he traveled, sometimes buying tickets, sometimes hopping into boxcars and riding with hobos. He went to Canada just to see his first snow in Mexico, ate for the first time in restaurants where men of all colors sat side by side.

Dawson built levees on the Mississippi, drove spikes for the railroads and worked in a sawmill. He met his first wife, Elzenna, while breaking horses in the Texas Panhandle.

They settled in Dallas, where Dawson worked two jobs. They had seven children, all of whom

want them to grow up like I did."

Dawson did his literacy for much of his life. He said he didn't really miss reading until 1947, when he couldn't make out the box scores of baseball great Jackie Robinson.

"Jackie Robinson was the first colored man to break into baseball with the white folks," he said.

"I was working at Oak Farms Dairy then. I remember saying 'Hit that ball, Jackie. He hit it.'"

Dawson said his toughest loss to illiteracy was a big promotion at the Dallas dairy, where he worked 25 years. He turned down a job as engineer because he knew he couldn't write the daily reports.

When Dawson retired at age 65, he signed his meager Social Security checks with an X.

He learned the other letters in his first two days of school.

His teacher, Carl Henry, said he was at first nervous about his new student.

"In my mind, I said, 'Oh my goodness! How in the world do I start teaching a 98-year-old man?'"

But Dawson was a quick study. He approached schooling like everything else in life, wholeheartedly.

Dawson soon insisted on learning cursive writing. When

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Dawson soon insisted on learning cursive writing. When

Henry tried to teach him to print, the old man told his teacher, "No son, I want to join them together."

Dawson's handwriting now is as good as the teacher's and he's reading at a fifth-grade level. He says he hopes to earn his general equivalency degree.

His class has doubled in enrollment since Dawson joined.

People say they saw where that old man is going to school, said Henry. "Some really thought they couldn't learn. But when they saw what he'd done, they changed their minds."

Dawson sometimes gives inspirational talks to school children. He says he tells them, "I'm trying to get what you all don't want."

Sometimes he sings slave songs, learned from his grandmothers, to his fellow students.

Dawson goes to school five days a week. In his free time, he loves to fish and watch Texas Rangers baseball games on television.

He's lived alone since his fourth wife passed away 12 years ago, but is visited often by his five surviving children, 19 grandchildren and more great-grandchildren than he can count.

Famly photos line the walls of his tiny living room and a tattered Bible lays on a cloth-covered coffee table. Dawson bought the Bible for his last wife from a traveling salesman. He said he sometimes thumbed through it, looking at letters and words holding no meaning.

Now he can read it aloud at the church he's attended since 1928. His favorite passage comes from John 1:23. "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness."

Glaubman, who first learned about Dawson from a 1998 newspaper article, said the old man's life is a lesson to all.

"Here is a man that had no formal education at all but had a wealth of information that he picked up," Glaubman said.

Dawson said that he doesn't expect his life to change much with the publishing of his life story. If he makes some money off the book, he might fix up his house or at least patch the leaky roof.

He says he has lots of time to finish that out. His doctor says he has the health of a man 30 years younger.

"Nothin' don't worry me," Dawson said with a smile. "Nothin' Worry will kill you. You just get to worrying and you know it's over."

Dawson soon insisted on learning cursive writing. When

Boys Choir of Harlem to perform at John Harms

ENGLEWOOD — The Boys Choir of Harlem, internationally recognized for its exceptional talent and harmonies, will perform its mix of classical, jazz, contemporary, and gospel music February 4 at the John Harms Center for the Arts as part of the theatre's Classical Series.

Some of the song selections will include Duke Ellington and George Gershwin medleys, classical music, spirituals, jazz tunes, and a section called "Fride and Hope," to tribute to Black History Month.

For more information, call (201) 567-5797.



Boys Choir of Harlem

Next Friday is #1 in first weekend

By Tom Haggan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was "Next Friday" again and again as the new film starring Ice Cube packed movie theaters during the long Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, earning \$16.9 million.

The movie opened Wednesday and was shown in just 1,103 locations to average \$15,338 per theater over the weekend, compared to \$4,048 per theater for No. 2 "Stuart Little" — box office leader three of the top previous weeks. "Stuart Little" earned \$12.5 million in 3,092 theaters, according to industry figures released Tuesday.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distributing studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and AC Nielsen ED.

1. "Next Friday," New Line.

\$16.9 million, 1,103 locations, \$15,338, \$21.5 million, one week.

2. "Stuart Little," Sony, \$12.5 million, 3,092 locations, \$4,048 average, \$109.6 million, five weeks.

3. "The Hurricane," Universal, \$10.5 million, 1,454 locations, \$7,230 average, \$14.6 million, three weeks.

4. "Girl, Interrupted," Sony, \$9.3 million, 1,902 locations, \$4,900 average, \$10.1 million, four weeks.

5. "The Green Mile," Warner Bros., \$8.8 million, 2,483 locations, \$3,561 average, \$102.8 million, six weeks.

6. "Galaxy Quest," DreamWorks, \$8.5 million, 2,450 locations, \$3,487 average, \$48.8 million, four weeks.

7. "The Talented Mr. Ripley," Paramount, \$6.8 million, 2,369 locations, \$2,879 average, \$63.5 million, four weeks.

8. "Supernova," MGM, \$6.7 million, 2,280 locations, \$2,953 average, \$6.7 million, one week.

9. "Toy Story 2," Disney, \$6.6 million, 3,326 locations, \$2,851 average, \$227.6 million, five weeks.

nine weeks.

10. "Any Given Sunday," Warner Bros., \$5.5 million, 2,905 locations, \$2,193 average, \$65.9 million, four weeks.

11. "Bicentennial Man," Disney, \$4.3 million, 2,216 locations, \$1,927 average, \$52.4 million, five weeks.

12. "Magnolia," New Line, \$3.9 million, 1,038 locations, \$3,760 average, \$12.2 million, five weeks.

13. "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," Disney, \$3.5 million, 1,920 locations, \$1,840 average, \$59 million, six weeks.

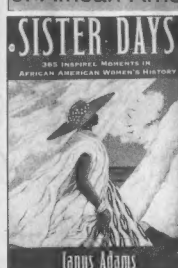
14. "The Cider House Rules," Miramax, \$3.4 million, 817 locations, \$4,101 average, \$12.6 million, six weeks.

15. "Fantasia 2000," Disney, \$3.14 million, 54 locations, \$58,135 average, \$11.1 million, three weeks.

16. "Snow Falling on Cedars," Universal, \$3.1 million, 1,153 locations, \$2,685 average, \$8.4 million, four weeks.

17. "Anna and the King," Fox, \$2.5 million, 1,535 locations, \$1,616 average, \$34.6 million, five weeks.

For the Bookshelves of African Americans



Janus Adams Sister Doy: 265 Inspired Moments in African American Women's History (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

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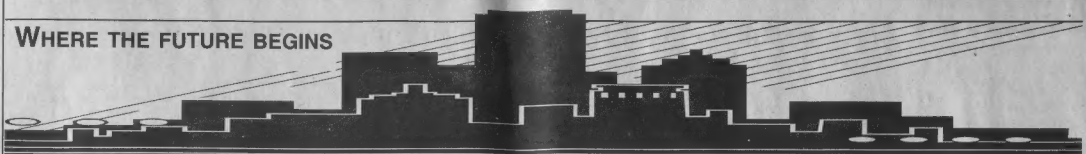
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ADDITIONAL LINE OF PRODUCT OR SERVICE INFORMATION _____

DATE _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

Make checks payable to Minority Business to Business Directory

Project No. 997518

LEGAL NOTICE

BOONTON HOUSING AUTHORITY NEW VACUUM CONDENSATE PUMPS AT RIVERVIEW TOWERS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Boonton (hereinafter called the Authority), in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administrative Office of the Authority, located at 125 Chestnut Street, Boonton, New Jersey, on February 11, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. prevailing time. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in bids and to reject any and all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

Repetitive sealed bids for:
CONTRACT for New Condensate Pumps at Riverview Towers.
All work incidental thereto, in accordance with Specifications.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the following amount:

BIDS	AMOUNT
up to \$200,000	10%
\$200,000 - \$400,000	\$20,000
over \$400,000	5%

Bids must be accompanied by consent surety regardless of whether a check or Bid Bond is submitted. All bonds and consents of surety must be written by surety companies listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the Administrative Office of the Authority. Copies of the Contract Documents may also be obtained at said offices upon payment by check or bank draft in the amount of \$50.00 payable to the "Boonton Housing Authority" for each set. **COPIES WILL NOT BE MAILED. PAYMENT FOR DOCUMENTS IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**

The Successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bond, written by a surety listed in the most recent Circular No. 570, United States Department of the Treasury, as the Authority may prescribe and with such sureties as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the laws of the State of New Jersey, must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1078, c. 127 which pertains to "Non-Disproportion" and "Affirmative Action"; and Public Law 1977, c. 33, which requires a Statement of Corporate Ownership.

Sherry L. Sims
Executive Director
Boonton Housing Authority

\$153.55

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MENTORS

Community-based organization seeks mentors for inner-city youth. Candidates should have a strong interest in youth, good oral communication skills & strong leadership ability. These volunteer positions are \$175 weekly (Mondays and Thursdays - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Experience a plus. Fax resumes to the American Friends Service Corps (973) 642-5924 or call Ken (973) 642-1813.

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Editorial Assistant

Newark, NJ — Must possess good writing & editing skills. Must be proficient in Quark Express, Photoshop & Illustrator. Must be able to clean copy, scan text & photos, pagination & design ability. Must be multi-task oriented, have great organizational skills and have a solid work history. References required.

City News

DIRECT CARE STAFF & DRIVERS NEEDED

The Arc of Union County, a leader in its field providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities currently has openings for Direct Care Staff and Drivers. **Direct Care Staff:** Full & Part Time positions include evening and weekend shifts. Positions responsible for housing and providing skills development and providing support and care to residents in daily living skills. Previous experience working with adults with developmental disabilities preferred.

Drivers: Part time positions available 5 days/week, 20 hours max/week. Monday thru 7:30 AM, afternoon on 2:30-5:30 PM. Responsible for the safe transportation of adults with developmental disabilities to and from work sites. All positions require valid NJ driver's license & good driving record. Send resume or apply to:

The Arc of Union County
Human Resources
1228 South Avenue
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Fax #908/754-6817

ADVERTISE IN CITY NEWS

Project Manager About Early Childhood Education Evaluation

- ★ The NJ Department of Human Services in cooperation with the Department of Education, located in Trenton, NJ, seeks a Project Manager to oversee and administer a six-month evaluation of the Infant Early Childhood Education Evaluation. This position offers a challenging challenge in a research environment with professional competence in program evaluation related to education or social services.
- ★ Responsibilities: The Project Manager serves under the direction of the Supervisor of the Research and Evaluation Unit. Responsibilities include: keep the project on track; ensure the external evaluator and the NJ local school district teams, in addition to:
 - Develop for the project a timeline of the project
 - Develop and manage the project schedule and project updates
 - Prepare summary reports for management and District Supervisors
 - Prepare findings and articles for the evaluation
 - Identify and resolve project problems as they occur
 - Prepare project management design and budget
 - Prepare and submit the project final report
 - Respond to press and public inquiries regarding the project
- ★ Requirements: Master's degree with a minimum 3 years experience in program evaluation, preferably in education, early childhood education, social services or related field. A B.A. or M.A. or significant credits toward a Ph.D. in education, social work, economics, public policy, planning, political science, sociology or related field preferred. Broadening and oral presentation skills. Working strong knowledge of evaluation methods and research techniques are essential. Successful candidates must be able to communicate research findings as well as in a professional and sensitive manner.
- ★ To apply: Mail in a cover letter, resume, and three references, along with resume and cover letter to: **Dr. Leonard Holzman**, Department of Human Services, PO Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08646-0700. Phone: (609) 364-4922. e-mail: leaholzman@del.state.nj.us

The Arc of Union County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Newark, NJ - To assist production in scanning & editing type, includes some layout & telephone work. Must have great organizational & computer skills, to meet deadlines & multi-task oriented. Immediate opening. Salary: Commensurate with skills. Send or fax your resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102. Fax (973) 642-5444

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City News is looking
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Freelance Writers
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973-642-5444

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Looking for some real go-getters who are ready to excel with a dynamic weekly newspaper! Minimum 3 yrs. sales exp., computer skills, excellent communication skills, great organizational skills, solid work history & own transportation are req. Had req. Salary: Base-commission. Send or fax your resume to City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102. Fax (973) 642-5444

GRAPHIC LAYOUT PERSON

Newark—Layout & graphic design of weekly & monthly newspaper. Must be very knowledgeable of layout design, proficient in Quark Express, Photoshop & Illustrator. Must have scanner exp. for text & photos, editing skills, multi-task oriented, able to meet deadlines & have great organizational skills. Have a solid work history. References req. Salary: Commensurate with skills. Send or fax your resume to: City News Publishing Co., 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F, Newark, NJ 07102. Fax (973) 642-5444

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New Jersey's leading African-American newspaper is looking for some individuals to join our team. Distribution available throughout New Jersey. Must be dependable & have reliable car. Must possess a current valid driver's license. For more information call: (873) 642-4400

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Ponder this...
By Greg Moore

Michael Jordan hits another bank shot

Last week it was revealed that his illness, Michael Jeffrey Jordan, purchased a minority stake in the moribund Washington Wizards.

The Wizards, a franchise which has not won a playoff game in 12 years, went to great lengths to lure Jordan into the fold.

In addition to allowing Jordan to purchase a stake in the team at a price below market value, Abe Pollin and Ted Leonsis, the team's two largest shareholders, conferred control of basketball operations to Jordan, who supplanted former GM Wes Unseld, and Team President Susan O'Malley in the process.

Was Jordan worth it? You better believe it. In the era of free-agents, pro basketball has increasingly come to resemble the college game in that stars are now recruited and not drafted. With the exponential increase in the number of underclassmen now declaring for the draft, top prospects are less pressed than ever before to make an immediate impact in the NBA.

By the time many young athletes mature into superstar caliber players, they're becoming free-agents and the wooing process has already begun.

Who better to woo superstar-free-agents than Jordan? For example, just a few weeks ago, disgruntled Wizards point guard Rod Strickland was publicly angling for a trade. After Jordan became a minority owner, Strickland, one of the NBA's renowned malcontents, changed his tune. Thus indicating that Jordan's affiliation changes everything, including his previous desire to part ways with the Wizards.

Look for Jordan's presence to affect other players in a similar fashion as the Wizards (as soon as they clear some salary cap room), rebuild and begin attracting major talent to the nation's capital (e.g., Grant Hill, Tim Duncan, or fellow North Carolina alum Vince Carter).

Sport Interactive Trade Show

I recently attended the International Sport Summit Interactive Trade Show and Conference at the Marriott Marquis, in New York, and in a word—WOW!

This well conceived efficiently organized event provided a fascinating glimpse into the future of sports by showcasing speakers and companies on the technological cutting edge, some of the more interesting vendors included, BROADCASTAMERICA.COM, which is a site which mimulates sports radio from around the country, INTERSPORT, INC., which provides innovative sports television and Internet content over the Web, and IPIX.COM aka INTERACTIVE PICTURES CORP.

When you get a chance go to IPD's Web Site because it will literally blow you away.

It's a site that essentially can give you a 360 degree perspective within a particular environment. The potential applications are manifold, and when broadband technology becomes more accessible, this company should do extremely well. Unfortunately, there was a noticeable dearth in African-American vendors which suggests that we have some catching up to do if we expect to cash in on the sports technology revolution.

City News gives you the 4-1-1 in sports.

If you have sports news or photos you care to send, mail them to:

City News
111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F
Newark, NJ 07102

By Kelly Foster
Correspondent

Two Group 4 Central Jersey State Championships in 1998-1999. Two undefeated seasons within four years. A 24 game winning streak. Players earning All State and All Area accolades are just some of the accomplishments of Flemington Hunterdon Central Regional High School's football team.

Though they admirably trounced opponents on the field, some members of the successful team have had to overcome personal obstacles away from the gridiron. Their stories, and their courage is a testimony to the success they have attained, both as exceptional athletes and as mature, resilient young men.

What follows is part-one of a three-part series about four seniors on this team.

A foster care outcast

For senior running back Melvin Hubbert, growing up in Compton, California was a sure test of endurance. Though his neighborhood was relatively calm, the rough spots were not too far from his house, and he can recall hearing gunshots while playing outside. His parents, who had some problems and were unable to care for Hubbert and his siblings, so he was placed at the age of six in foster care, where he lived for four years. He

remembers it as a hectic living arrangement, as foster kids were constantly coming and going. And though Hubbert says he was usually treated fairly by his foster

that stuff."

Hubbert's situation changed after he spent the summer before the fifth grade, with his uncle Thomas and his wife, Pia, in



Courtesy of Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Melvin Hubbert No. 24 is a premier running back who has excelled despite adjusting to a predominantly white environment and a former product of the foster care system.

ter parents, the family's own children were favored.

"I felt they treated us foster kids fairly, but not as fair as their own son. When we went to the store she (the foster mother) would buy him chips and subs and we (foster kids) wouldn't get

Flemington. Shortly afterwards, his uncle went to court to gain custody of him and brought him to Flemington permanently. However, his family and siblings are scattered, his twin sister and older brother live in New York with relatives. His father also

resides in New York and his mother is still in California. He sees his father frequently, but he misses his mother.

"I'd like to see my mom," Hubbert says wistfully and would like to see his family reunited.

Football helped Hubbert adjust and introduced him to many of his current teammates.

"(Football) helped me meet people. I probably wouldn't have been very popular without it," says Hubbert.

Though he didn't feel unwelcome in his new surroundings, Hubbert had adjustments to make. He was accustomed to growing up in a black neighborhood, and suddenly he was thrust into a predominantly white environment.

He asserts that adjusting socially was more difficult than adjusting racially, although he does recall his first brush with racism. While in the fifth-grade a classmate called him a racial slur and Hubbert retaliated by beating the kid up.

"He didn't know what he was saying, or maybe he did know. He states that race is not an issue amongst his present teammates. "The team respects each other," Hubbert has his sight set on attending the University of Maryland in the fall.

Newark high schools to play in Riverfront Stadium

NEWARK — Joseph N. DiVencenzo, in conjunction with State District Superintendent for the Newark Public Schools, Marion Bolden, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Jack Venezia, Director of the Greater Newark Tournament, and Art Guida, Director of External Affairs for PSE&G, announced that Riverfront Stadium will host a number of Newark Public School Baseball games this year. The roster of events includes the championship game of the

Greater Newark Tournament, one of the state's oldest and most prestigious high school baseball tournaments.

Until 1972, the GNT was a statewide invitational tournament. In 1973, the GNT became a county tournament that has an open invitation to any high school in Essex County.

"We are extremely excited to welcome home the Greater Newark Tournament Championship Game," Freeholder President Joseph DiVincenzo noted.



The D.C. Wizard of b-ball

By Joseph White

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maybe the Washington Wizards should start selling tickets to practice. Watching Michael Jordan use his fierce competitiveness to embarrass an under-achieving player would be more entertaining than watching his new team play a game.

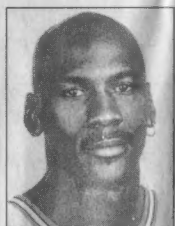
The biggest name in basketball history is now part-owner and president of basketball operations of the Wizards, a bad team that doesn't draw and can now expect some first-hand lessons from the five-time MVP with the Chicago Bulls.

"The best way to evaluate a player is to look in his eyes and see how scared he is," Jordan said. "And I've seen that." Exhibit A of the lofty talk ahead came Wednesday night, hours after Jordan was introduced before a packed, enthusiastic, nationally televised news conference in the basement of the MCI Center. When it came time for the game, the arena was not packed — not even close to half full — and fans were booing a Wizards team that fell behind early and was embarrassed 104-86 by the Dallas Mavericks.

Jordan, joined by President Clinton in the owners' box in the fourth quarter, didn't comment after the game. But his new partner, fellow minority owner Ted Leonsis, had lost some of the glow he had earlier in the day. "After tonight's performance, I'd say our guys have no place to go but up," Leonsis said.

Jordan will own up to 20 percent of the team, a source close to the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press. The exact amount could vary because of complexities involved in the way the deal was negotiated, the source said.

Jordan becomes only the third black minority owner in the NBA, with Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers and Edward and Bettina Gardner of the



Michael Jordan

direction," said Jordan, whose relationship with Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf deteriorated in recent years.

NBA rules prohibit owners from playing and players from becoming owners, so Jordan wouldn't be able to suit up for a game even if he felt like it.

"I don't get to play. I don't get to wear a Wizards uniform," Jordan said. "But I will have influence with the players who wear the uniform. I'm going to try to have my imprint and footprints all over this place."

Anyone who has spent time with Jordan knows that he's always competing at something, whether it's basketball, golf, baseball or a game of cards in the clubhouse — and he always wants to win.

"I have an attitude about the way I play," Jordan said. "I have an attitude about the way I win."

It's going to take some time before he comes in and evaluate what's here, what's going to stay here and what's going to leave.

For now, Jordan said he will retain general manager Wes Unseld and coach Gar Heard, but he gave no guarantees.

"Until we get everyone on track, everybody's disposable to some degree," Jordan said.

Jordan also will have a ownership stake in the NHL's Washington Capitals, which are owned by Leonsis' Lincoln Holdings group, but he will have no say-so in the hockey operations.

The Wizards hold the second-worst record in the Eastern Conference. The franchise hasn't won a playoff game in 12 years, hasn't had a sellout at the 2-year-old MCI Center this season.

"They're going in a different

Sports Shorts



"A CELEBRATION OF OUR CHILDREN, OUR COMMUNITIES"

On Wednesday, January 26, 2000, New Jersey women's college basketball will be showcased at the Louis Brown Athletic Center in Piscataway, when the Rutgers Scarlet Knights and Seton Hall University Pirates take to the court and match their skills.

The NJN Foundation and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey invite you and a guest to join "A Celebration of Our Children, Our Communities" pre-game reception from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and game starting at 7:30 at the Louis Brown Athletic Center on the Rutgers Campus in Piscataway.

If you wish to attend the pre-game reception please call Brenda Gadsden at 609-777-5059 by January 21. Space is limited so please call at your earliest convenience.

COLGATE GAMES COMPETITORS CONTINUE TO LEAD NATIONAL PACE THROUGH SECOND PRELIMINARY MEET

BROOKLYN - High School track and field competitors throughout the nation have a tough lead to follow this year as Colgate Women's Games competitors continue to score impressive times through early preliminary meets.

Natasha Staten of William Penn High School in Philadelphia scored her second straight double win, taking the 55 meters in 6.9 and the 200 meters in 25.0. Meet Director Fred Thompson says Staten's scores, are the times to beat throughout all divisions.

We're in a New-ark state of mind

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